



NEWS



News Headlines 6/23-26/2017

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11-acre fire off 215 Freeway near Devore is 40 percent contained

Jim Steinberg, Press-Enterprise

Posted: June 24, 2017, 3:18 PM



DEVORE>>Seventy-five firefighters from three agencies extinguished an 11 acre fire near the split-off point between the 15 and 215 freeways on Saturday afternoon, June 24.

The brush fire started as the result of an automobile fire, said Liz Brown, a spokeswoman for Cal Fire. Investigators are still trying to determine what caused the automobile to ignite, she said.

The car fire was initially reported a little after 2 p.m. on the Devore Road off-ramp of the northbound 215 Freeway, according to a California Highway Patrol incident log.

The car was fully engulfed when officers arrived at the scene, the log said.

At 3:23 p.m., the CHP issued a SigAlert on I-15 north of Kenwood Avenue, according to the log.

At the nearby Glen Helen Amphitheater, where a Tool concert was about to take place, people reported seeing smoke from the freeway.

Brown said the fire was 40 percent contained, but not active, as the evening hours approached.

There was air support initially on the fire and two bulldozers were on the scene, along with 15 engines, said Debbie Chapman, another Cal Fire spokeswoman.

For a brief period, three houses were threatened, but the fire was halted before it could damage them, Chapman said.

There were not any evacuation orders during the course of the fire, Brown said.

Crews would continue to monitor the fire overnight and restart mop-up activities Monday morning, Brown said.

In the effort, Cal Fire was supported by the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** and the U.S. Forest Service.

<http://www.pe.com/2017/06/24/fire-burning-on-215-freeway-near-devore/>

Boy Scout airlifted from remote San Gorgonio Wildernes trail

Jim Steinberg, The Sun

Posted: June 24, 2017, 11:24 PM

FOREST FALLS>>A sheriff's helicopter rescued a Boy Scout from a remote, high-elevation spot in the San Gorgonio Wilderness on Saturday, **San Bernardino County fire** officials said.

The youth suffered a medial emergency on a trail near the Dollar Lake, said San Bernardino fire Capt. Jeff Britton, who works out of Station 99 in Forest Falls.

The unidentified youth was airlifted by a San Bernardino County sheriff's chopper from the remote portion of Momyer Trail to Forest Falls, where an ambulance was waiting.

The youth was transported to Redlands Community Hospital for evaluation, Britton said.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170624/boy-scout-airlifted-from-remote-san-gorgonio-wildernes-trail>

Fire officials warn no fireworks allowed

Douglas W. Motley, Alpenhorn News

Posted: June 24, 2017



Numerous truckloads of illegal fireworks were seized during a recent crackdown conducted by a multi-agency illegal fireworks taskforce. (Photo courtesy of SB County Fire Dept.)

Fire officials this week offered a stern warning to mountain residents and visitors alike that any persons found possessing or using fireworks of any kind in the mountaintop communities or forest areas, even so-called "safe and sane" fireworks, would be subject to citations and stiff fines.

"In the event a fire occurs due to the unsafe use of fireworks, the responsible persons will likely face criminal charges and will be held liable for damages and fines of up to \$1,250 for the first offense," **San Bernardino County Fire Department** Public Information Officer Tracey Martinez told The Alpenhorn News. Martinez said property owners could also be cited if they allow fireworks to be possessed, stored or used on their property.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, on a typical 4th of July, fireworks cause more fires than all other causes combined. With this in mind, county fire officials encourage residents to watch fireworks at community celebrations such as those slated for Saturday, July 1st at Lake Gregory and Monday, July 3rd at Lake Arrowhead. "The county encourages residents to partake of the locally-sponsored 4th of July celebrations and leave the fireworks displays to the experts," Martinez added.

According to Martinez, a multi-agency task force is currently targeting individuals involved in the transportation and sales of illegal fireworks. Martinez would not disclose specific targeted locations, saying only, "A multi-agency law enforcement task force is conducting ongoing operations throughout the county."

One such taskforce, led by the County's Fire Department's Fire Investigations Unit, seized 7,500 pounds of dangerous and illegal fireworks during operations conducted in an undisclosed location on June 3rd and 4th. The fireworks seizure resulted in the issuing of 40 citations totaling \$50,000 in fines for possession of illegal fireworks.

Noting that county residents are facing yet another dangerous wildland fire season, County Fire officials said the department is partnering with law enforcement agencies to increase its vigilance in enforcing state and county firework laws in order to protect public health and safety.

In unincorporated county areas where fireworks are not allowed, such as within the mountain communities, fire officials will be issuing citations for the illegal use, possession, or storage of fireworks, with fines up to \$1,250 for the first offense, as well as the possibility of arrest. Property owners may also be cited if they allow fireworks to be possessed, stored, or used on their property.

Improperly used and poorly serviced backyard barbecue grills are another major cause of summertime residential blazes. Fire officials urge homeowners to keep outdoor grills away from combustible materials such as lighter fluid, wood decks and trees or other vegetation. They advise never using a charcoal grill on a wood deck because they can get knocked over. Noting that flame-ups from grease are a major cause of residential fires, officials recommend keeping a garden hose nearby whenever using a backyard grill.

<http://alpenhornnews.com/fire-officials-warn-no-fireworks-allowed-p8196-155.htm>

Melvin fire burns 2-3 acres in foothills near Cal State San Bernardino

Ali Tadayon, The Press-Enterprise

Posted: June 25, 2017, 1:45 PM

SAN BERNARDINO >> An aggressive air attack on a vegetation fire Sunday, June 25, kept it from spreading beyond 2-3 acres through the heavy fuels in the foothills of northern San Bernardino.

The fire was reported shortly before 1 p.m. near the intersection of Palm and Melvin avenues at the border between the city and the San Bernardino National Forest. About two hours later, fire officials said they had held it to 10 acres, but another hour after that, officials clarified that it had burned less than previously announced.

The fire was 50 percent contained by that time, officials said.

Several agencies were involved in the initial attack, which included a "full response with air tankers," San Bernardino National Forest officials tweeted.

The air attack, tankers and helicopters were released from the fire by 3 p.m., the National Forest tweeted. Ground crews remained to finish mopping up.

The location where the fire was reported is about 2 miles northwest of Cal State San Bernardino and about 3 miles southeast of the Glen Helen Amphitheater in Devore. As Palm Avenue enters into the San Bernardino Mountains, it becomes Bailey Canyon Road.

The California Highway Patrol also received reports of the fire. Traffic on the nearby 215 Freeway below the Cajon Pass was not affected, a Caltrans map showed.

This story is developing. Check back for updates.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170625/melvin-fire-burns-2-3-acres-in-foothills-near-cal-state-san-bernardino>

Downed power lines touch off small fire in Bloomington

Brian Rokos, The Press-Enterprise

Posted: June 25, 2017, 4:04 PM

BLOOMINGTON >> Fallen electrical lines caused a small brush fire in a residential and commercial neighborhood in Bloomington on Sunday afternoon, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** said.

The fire was reported about 2:30 p.m. in the 18700 block of 13th Street, between Cedar Avenue and Pepper Street. Firefighters arrived to find a 20-square-foot area burning, Capt. Dan Nelson said.

Firefighters had to wait for a Southern California Edison crew to arrive to shut down the power before they could attack the flames. The fire did not threaten any buildings, Nelson said.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170625/downed-power-lines-touch-off-small-fire-in-bloomington>

Holcomb Fire at 91 percent containment, back under local command

Daily Press

Posted: June 26, 2017, 9:17 AM



San Bernardino National Forest Service has taken back command of the Holcomb Fire, which sits at 1,503 acres and 91 percent containment. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

BIG BEAR — A week after it erupted northeast of Big Bear in the San Bernardino National Forest, the Holcomb Fire is back under local command and edging toward full containment.

The Southern California Incident Management Team 2 — comprised of fire and support personnel from various fire agencies throughout the state — transferred command of the blaze back to the San Bernardino National Forest Service Sunday evening, officials said.

The move came after total acreage for the fire “shrunk” to 1,503, down 37 acres from Thursday’s estimate “due to more accurate mapping,” National Forest Service officials announced Saturday morning, and containment reached 91 percent Sunday.

“The highest priority is to protect the safety of fire personnel and human life followed by the protection of private property and structures,” Forest Service officials stated.

After more than 1,200 firefighters were called upon to battle the blaze at its peak last week, approximately 329 from the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, **San Bernardino County Fire Department**, CAL FIRE, Big Bear Fire Department and other local agencies remain working to improve containment lines and for fire suppression repair of roads, doze and hand-constructed fire lines, and to complete back haul of firefighting equipment.

No growth is expected in the uncontrolled portion of the fire, located on steep slopes above Highway 18, officials said, and visible smoke from the interior smoldering may linger in the High Desert.

Highway 18 was reopened Friday morning, but access to Jacoby Canyon is still closed from Highway 18 to Holcomb Valley Road and Holcomb Valley Road East is closed to Hepburn Mine and Gold Mountain Road remain closed. A section of the Pacific Crest Trail between Highway 18 and Van Dusen Canyon Road is also still closed.

Authorities ask motorists to reduce their speed and “be aware of fire equipment and personnel” traveling on Highway 18 between Big Bear and Lucerne Valley.

“Given the critically dry and receptive fuel types, residents and visitors should continue to be aware of fire conditions and be prepared if changes or new fire threatens the community,” Forest Service officials said.

A smoke advisory for the entire Victor Valley remains in effect from the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District. Residents are urged to avoid any vigorous exertion and take other precautions. More information on air quality can be found at www.mdaqmd.ca.gov.

On Wednesday, authorities asked for the public’s help in establishing the cause of the Holcomb Fire. Anyone who was around the area of the Pacific Crest Trail, near Holcomb Valley Road north of Highway 18, or the Doble Trail Camp between 6 p.m. June 17 and 3:05 p.m. June 19 should call 909-382-2699. All calls can remain confidential.

For more information on the Holcomb Fire, visit www.inciweb.nwcg.gov.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170626/holcomb-fire-at-91-percent-containment-back-under-local-command>