



NEWS



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Two Airlifted After Off Road Vehicle Crash Near Johnson Dry Lake Bed

Staff Writer, 247 Headline

Posted: April 23, 2018

LUCERNE VALLEY – Two were transported, one with severe injuries were airlifted from the Johnson Dry Lake Bed on Sunday afternoon after an off-road vehicle collision.

At around 12:30 p.m. two San Bernardino County Sheriff's helicopters, along with the CHP and the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department firefighters responded to reports of an off-road traffic collision. The reporting party told dispatchers that the vehicle rolled over and the driver was injured in the desert area north of the Johnson Dry Lakebed. Still, the exact location was unknown but emergency medical personnel responded to the area to search for the patient. A second reporting party called after coming across the traffic collision and was able to provide the GPS location.

Using the provided information, the Sheriff's helicopter was able to locate the victim and provide an off-site landing. After landing they learned that there were two patients involved in the collision, both unrestrained at the time of the collision. The driver was ejected and sustained major injuries. The passenger was not ejected but was also injured. The air medic immediately contacted the driver and provided medical aid, while a Corporal tended to the passenger. Both of the victims, Carrie Brown, 55, of Chino Hills, and Justin Brown, 32, of Chino Hills, were airlifted to Loma Linda Medical treatment.

<https://247headline.com/two-airlifted-after-off-road-vehicle-crash-near-johnson-dry-lake-bed/>

Humans rescued, dog gets fire department treat in off-road incident

Richard K. De Atley, The Sun

Posted: April 22, 2018, 3:22 p.m.



Firefighter paramedics Kyle, left and Dustin Foulks with Rango. (Courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire Department) A San Bernardino County Fire Department helicopter spotted an overturned off-road vehicle in the desert off the 15 Freeway near Wild Wash Road on Saturday, April 21. Fire engineer Jason Williams with Rango. (Courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire Department)

Firefighters rescued three humans and briefly boarded one family dog after a rescue operation for an overturned off-road vehicle in remote desert terrain Saturday, April 21.

The reports to **San Bernardino County Fire** Department shortly before 2 p.m. described a vehicle rollover in the area of Wild Wash Road near the 15 Freeway.

With the rugged terrain and the vaguely reported location, firefighters decided to dispatch a search helicopter and send an off-road rescue vehicle, MS311, based in Victorville. The crew of helicopter H325 found the vehicle, on its side, about three miles west of the freeway, the department reported on its Facebook page. The helicopter crew guided rescuers to the spot. The rugged landscape limited access to the county fire rescue vehicle, a Desert Ambulance unit from Barstow, and the California Highway Patrol, the department's post said.

Three unidentified people were treated at the scene for minor to moderate injuries, none serious enough for helicopter rescue. They were taken by ground transport to a hospital.

With all the victims headed to a hospital, that left the family dog, Rango, unattended. It was the weekend, with less availability for animal control services and possible boarding fees for the family.

The crew of MS311 offered to take Rango to their station in Victorville and care for him until he could be picked up. He was reunited with other family members later in the day, county fire spokesman Jeremy Kern said.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2018/04/22/humans-rescued-dog-gets-fire-department-treat-in-off-road-incident/>

Firefighter Dog Sit While Occupants of Off Road Vehicle Collision Receive Treatment

Staff Writer, 247 Headline

Posted: April 23, 2018

VICTORVILLE – Firefighters from **San Bernardino County Fire** Department station 311, in Victorville, dogsit a family dog after responding to an off-road vehicle rollover on Saturday afternoon.

Just before 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 21, 2018, firefighters responded to a remote desert area of Wild Wash Road near the 15 freeway, for the report of a vehicle rollover with injuries. A desert ambulance from Barstow also responded to the report. "Due to the vague location and potential access problems the area Battalion Chief requested an engine from MCLB Barstow along with County Fire Reach Helicopter 325," said Jeremy Kern, Public Information Officer for the San Bernardino County Fire Department. "H325 quickly reached the reported area and with common communications with ground crews a search began." The fire engine, ambulance, and the CHP stood nearby, due to the rough terrain and waited until H325, the CHP helicopter, could locate the single-vehicle rollover collision. H325 quickly located the collision approximately 3 miles west of the 15 freeway and led ground units to the three patients.

The patients sustained minor to moderate injuries and were transported to a local hospital via ground ambulance. Although none of the patients needed to be airlifted, H325 played a vital role in locating the patients in a timely manner. "Rapid insertion of flight nurses and paramedics to the remote areas of our county benefits the severely injured and reduces time to critical treatment and transport to trauma centers," added Kern in a news release. Once all patients were accounted for and transported, firefighters discovered that "Rango", the family dog was riding with the patients who were all being transported. Rango was not injured as a result of the collision, but had no one to provide care to him. Animal control's weekend hours are limited over the weekend and firefighters did not want the patients to be responsible for boarding fees after the collision. Firefighters from Station 311, in the City of Victorville, offered to care for Rango, while his family received treatment in the hospital. Later that day, after relaxing at the station, Rango was reunited with his family.

<https://247headline.com/firefighters-dog-sit-while-occupants-of-off-road-vehicle-collision-receive-treatment/>

2 airlifted after vehicle slams into back of semi on US 395

Staff Writer, VVNG

Posted: April 20, 2018



(submitted photos)

ADELANTO, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Two critically injured people were airlifted to trauma centers after colliding into a semi Thursday night.

It happened at about 10:15 pm, on US Highway 395 just south of Air Express Way in Adelanto.

Based on preliminary information, the tractor-trailer was stopped on the side of US-395 when a Honda sedan slammed into the rear of the trailer causing the vehicle to be wedged underneath.

Firefighters with **San Bernardino County Fire** responded to the scene and extricated at least two occupants from the sedan. Due to their injuries, two medical helicopters were requested to airlift both patients to trauma centers.

“At this time we don’t know why the vehicle failed to stop in time,” stated sheriff’s spokeswoman Staci Parks.

According to Parks, the vehicle was towed from the scene and the semi was driven from the scene.

A portion of Highway 395 was closed while authorities investigated and cleared the scene.

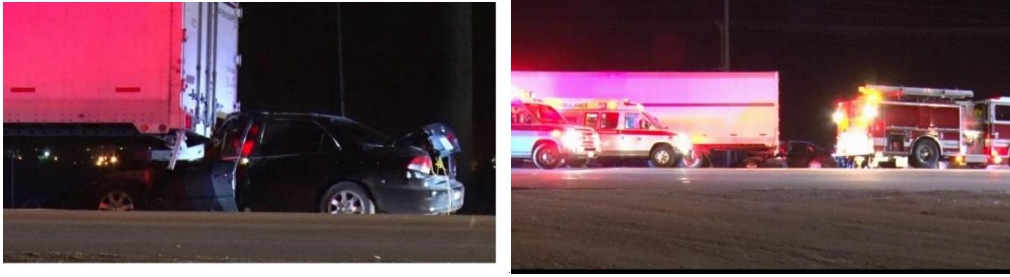
The cause of the crash remains under investigation by the Victor Valley Sheriff’s Station. Additional information will be updated as it becomes available.

<http://www.vvng.com/2-airlifted-after-vehicle-slams-into-back-of-semi-on-us-395/>

Two airlifted after Honda crashes into the back of tractor-trailer on Hwy 395

Kevin Trudgeon, Daily Press

Posted: April 20, 2018



Two people were injured when their Honda Accord crashed into the back of a tractor-trailer on Highway 395 Thursday evening. [Submitted photo]

ADELANTO — Two people were airlifted to an area hospital after their car crashed into the back of a tractor-trailer on Highway 395 Thursday evening, authorities said.

Reported at 10:14 p.m., the collision occurred on southbound Highway 395, just south of Air Expressway, and involved a Honda Accord, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Victor Valley Station spokeswoman Staci Parks told the Daily Press.

“The (tractor-trailer) was stopped and the other vehicle failed to stop and collided with the rear of it,” Parks said.

The driver of the Honda and a passenger were flown to an area hospital for treatment of their injuries. Parks said there was no update on their status as of Friday morning. The driver of the tractor-trailer was uninjured.

Southbound lanes of Highway 395 were closed for several hours while authorities processed the scene and the cause of the crash is still under investigation.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20180420/two-airlifted-after-honda-crashes-into-back-of-tractor-trailer-on-hwy-395>

As County Fire contract nears end, lacking transition plan a worry

Shea Johnson, Daily Press

Posted: April 20, 2018, 6:20 p.m.



San Bernardino County firefighters respond to a reported bathroom fire at Desert Knolls West convalescent home in Victorville in September 2015. [Daily Press file photo]

VICTORVILLE — Less than three months before the contract with **County Fire** expires, city officials are increasingly anxious that a transition plan has yet to be agreed upon as the city embarks on re-launching an independent department.

City officials had been dissatisfied with a trio of meetings with invested parties that occurred in late March. Specifically, they were frustrated that their six-month extension proposal was countered and that San Bernardino County 3rd District Supervisor James Ramos — and not Board Chairman Robert Lovingood — has been intimately involved in negotiations.

But County Fire has similarly conveyed hurdles, including reported difficulty in gaining access to city staff to facilitate regular and meaningful discussions, even as all sides have indicated they're committed to a smooth transition that won't negatively affect residents.

The city's 10-year agreement with County Fire ends July 5, but the city-ran Victorville Fire Department isn't expected to be ready to provide services until January. The county and the city have been working on a detailed plan for the transition as afforded by the contract's holdover provision.

But those talks, at least from the city's perspective, have not been fruitful of late, with a deadline fast approaching. In a letter to Lovingood late Thursday, Mayor Gloria Garcia says she is "growing concerned" about the lack of an agreed transition plan.

The letter was carbon-copied to the entire Board of Supervisors, county CEO Gary McBride, County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig, city officials and the Daily Press.

The intentional public broach of the ongoing worry appears to underscore the pressure officials might feel to wrap up a mutual arrangement for the changeover.

"We're running out of time," Garcia said in an interview Friday.

The letter describes details of meetings with Hartwig, McBride, Ramos and three city officials including Mayor Pro Tem Jim Cox and City Manager Keith Metzler.

It says the county countered a six-month contract extension with a one-year proposal and had represented to city officials that it was prepared to end its service July 5. It then notes that city officials suggested a nine-month extension, as a compromise, but had not heard back as of Thursday.

CONFIRE dispatch services will also end when the County Fire contract does, and city officials suggested that the county is taking the remarkable step of interfering with the city's ability to contract with the joint powers authority.

In the letter, which she acknowledged was only signed off by her, Garcia said that Ramos had convinced the CONFIRE Board — of which Ramos is a member — to table consideration of a contract “by suggesting that Victorville owes money to the County.”

In an interview Friday, Ramos denied raising such an issue. The crux of the matter, he said, was that the city recently opted to privatize operations at one of its fire stations, which changed the scope of the contract extension.

Ramos said County Fire was simply in the phase right now of re-calculating the figures.

“We had time to figure this out,” he said, pointing to a CONFIRE meeting scheduled in late May. “Now for them to write this letter and put it out to the press,” he added, “(hurts) those relationships we’ve been trying to build. I’m not sure why they decided to go this route.”

Tracey Martinez, a spokeswoman for County Fire, disputed the letter's assertions Friday evening.

She said County Fire was only one of six votes on the CONFIRE JPA and there simply had not yet been a decision by the board whether to respond to the city's request for dispatch services.

“There is no factual basis for (the) perception” that the county is interfering with the city's efforts to retain those services, she added.

On Friday, Garcia said she had been assured that legally County Fire must perform six months of services after the contract expires — deal or no deal — but that isn't true, according to Martinez.

Martinez also said the department believes there was a substantial amount of unfunded liability accrued by firefighters and staff on behalf of the city over the 10-year agreement.

“When the city ‘hits the reset button’ as suggested by city officials, the unfunded liability does not disappear,” she said. “It is simply transferred to other partner cities and districts served by the County Fire District.”

“The Fire Chief and his staff remain hopeful that the city will commit to regular and meaningful discussions,” she said, “in order to ensure a safe and smooth transition for the citizens of Victorville.”

Lovingood said Friday that a meeting was scheduled next week to include representatives of every party involved, noting that he had only recently been called upon to effectively try to smooth things over.

“How do we unwind this without risk to the citizens, to the families, to the children, so there's not any lack of services of public safety?” he said. “I mean, that's my stated goal.”

Garcia acknowledged she was unsure if differences would be resolved by July, although she attached herself closely to the idea that services would not be interrupted either way.

“We don’t want to show the public that there’s animosity in negotiating or dissolving this contract,” she concluded, “because it sends the wrong message and makes the public feel unsafe, I would say.”

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20180420/as-county-fire-contract-nears-end-lacking-transition-plan-worry>