



NEWS



News Headlines 09/21/2016

- No one hurt, two dogs rescued in early morning Redlands apartment fire
- 2016's hellish summer weather: A told-you-so climate moment?
- Two women flown to local hospital after traffic collision in Helendale late Monday
- Hesperia Chamber of Commerce recognizes 'Hometown Heroes'

No one hurt, two dogs rescued in early morning Redlands apartment fire

Redlands Fire Department via Highland News

Posted: September 19, 2016, 2:47 PM



Firefighter carries rescued dog from the building.

No injuries were reported but two dogs were rescued during an early morning apartment fire Monday, Sept. 19.

Redlands Firefighters responded to the blaze at an apartment building in the 900 block of Lombard Street at approximately 2 a.m. Monday, Sept. 19. Arriving units found heavy smoke and fire to a ground-level apartment extending to the unit above and a number of people outside the building.

Firefighters extended hose lines and confirmed that all occupants of the building had been evacuated but learned that two dogs were trapped in the upstairs apartment.

Firefighters entered the apartment and located the trapped dogs. After removing the dogs from the building, firefighters administered oxygen to both animals, using specialized pet masks carried on the fire apparatus. The dogs were returned to their owners.

Crews extinguished the blaze, preventing it from extending to any other units.

The cause of the fire is under investigation. **San Bernardino County Fire** provided assistance. Redlands Police assisted with traffic control. American Medical Response and the Red Cross were also on scene to assist.

http://www.highlandnews.net/news/crime_and_fire/no-one-hurt-two-dogs-rescued-in-early-morning-redlands/article_a42e18e2-7eb2-11e6-83e7-f7a5a4c727fe.html

2016's hellish summer weather: A told-you-so climate moment?

Seth Borenstein, Associated Press

Posted: September 20, 2016, 4:00 PM



In this August file photo, firefighters battle a wildfire as it crosses Cajon Boulevard in Keenbrook, Calif. This past summer's weather was relentless and hellish, crowded with the type of record-smashing extremes that scientists have long warned about. The season ends Wednesday and not a moment too soon. Summer featured floods that killed hundreds of people and caused more than \$50 billion in losses around the globe, from Louisiana and West Virginia to China, India, Europe and the Sudan. Meanwhile, droughts parched croplands and wildfires burned from California to Canada to China and India. Toss in unrelenting record heat. Noah Berger, Associated Press

WASHINGTON — This summer's weather was relentless and hellish, crowded with the type of record-smashing extremes that scientists have long warned about.

The season ends Wednesday, and not a moment too soon. Summer featured floods that killed hundreds of people and caused more than \$50 billion in losses around the globe, from Louisiana and West Virginia to China, India, Europe and the Sudan. Meanwhile, droughts parched croplands and wildfires burned from California to Canada to China and India. Toss in unrelenting record heat.

From June to August, there were at least 10 different weather disasters that each caused more than \$1 billion in losses, according to insurance industry tallies . With summer weather now seemingly stretching from May to September, extreme weather in that span killed well more than 2,000 people. And that's without a major hurricane hitting a big U.S. city, although the Pacific had its share of deadly and costly storms, among them Typhoon Nepartak, which killed 111 people in Asia.

"It is representing I think a notch up for the impacts we have had to deal with," U.S. National Weather Service Director Louis Uccellini said. "We've experienced an increasing number and a disturbing number of weather extremes this summer."

While flooding made the news, the "sneaky" thing about the summer was heat that did not even ease at night, said Deke Arndt, climate monitoring chief at the federal National Centers for Environmental Information in Asheville, North Carolina. When temperatures drop to below 72 (22.22 Celsius) at night it allows the body to recharge, plants to grow and air conditioners to be shut off. But this year that didn't happen enough.

The U.S. as a nation set a record for the hottest nighttime temperatures on average this summer, Arndt said. Tallahassee, Florida, for example, went 74 consecutive days where the nighttime temperature didn't dip below 72.

From May 1 to Sept. 12, nearly 15,000 daily records for warmest nighttime lows were set in the United States, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration data .

"This is one of the clearest signals we expect for climate change," said Mark Bove, a New Jersey-based senior research meteorologist for re-insurance giant Munich RE, which tracks natural disasters . "It keeps a blanket on you particularly at night. We cannot radiate the heat away at night as the planet used to."

While records were broken, the summer has "been more notable for the consistency of the heat than individual high-impact heatwaves," said Blair Trewin of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology and the World Meteorological Organization.

For example, Savannah, Georgia, had a record 69 days in a row of 90 degrees (32.22 Celsius) or higher.

Twelve U.S. cities had their warmest summers ever, including Las Vegas, New Orleans, Cleveland and Detroit. The globe had its hottest month on record (July) and hottest summer on record. August was the 16th consecutive month Earth set a monthly heat record, according to NOAA.

Temperatures of 129 degrees (54 degrees Celsius) were recorded in Mitribah, Kuwait, and Basra, Iraq. If verified, these would be not only the hottest temperatures recorded for Asia, but the hottest recorded outside a much-debated record in Death Valley, according to weather historians.

The extra heat — both in the air and oceans — puts significantly extra moisture in the air, which then comes down as more extreme downpours, said Kevin Trenberth, a senior scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research. And when an area is already dry, droughts worsen because warmer air takes more water out of the ground, like "levying a larger tax on the plants and soil moisture," Arndt said.

Baton Rouge and South Bend had their wettest summers, while Boston and Jacksonville had their driest summers.

Climate scientists say what's happened pretty much fits with what they've been saying would occur as the world warms. For most of the extreme events, they haven't done the precise and detailed studies that can show that man-made climate change is to blame for certain extreme weather events. But they did do that for the Louisiana flooding, which NOAA said had its chances boosted by 40 percent because of heat-trapping gasses.

NASA chief climate scientist Gavin Schmidt said the records keep showing the planet warming and "since we kind of predicted these things we know what we're talking about."

Perhaps the most noticeable case of this being predicted was in a 1988 study by James Hansen, Schmidt's predecessor as head of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies .

In that study, using what scientists now call a crude computer model, Hansen forecast what would likely happen to Earth's climate. With one of his scenarios, Hansen not only got the global temperature rise about right, he forecast big changes in the number of days when the overnight temperatures would not go below 75 and the daytime highs would exceed 95 in four cities by the 2010s.

He was right — or underestimated how hot it would be — in six of eight categories.

"The fact it's come out with more or less around what was predicted is not surprising," Hansen said. "The summer is when things show up easiest because the natural variability is the least in the summer. You notice the change more readily in the warm season."

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160920/NEWS/160929966/0/SEARCH>

Two women flown to local hospital after traffic collision in Helendale late Monday

Monica Solano, Daily Press

Posted: September 20, 2016, 4:18 PM

HELENDALE — Two women were flown to separate hospitals after a traffic collision Monday night, officials said.

Just after 7 p.m., deputies from the San Bernardino Sheriff's Hesperia Station and rescue personnel from **County Fire** responded to a report of a two-vehicle collision on National Trails Highway and Vista Road in Helendale.

According to CHP spokesperson Matt Hunt, a 2006 Toyota Highlander driven by a 90-year-old women from Helendale was traveling westbound on National Trails Highway while a 2003 Nissan 350Z driven by a 34-year-old resident from Phelan was traveling eastbound on the same road.

For reasons still under investigation, the driver of the Toyota made a left-hand turn directly in front of the Nissan and was struck by the oncoming vehicle.

Extrication was required to free both women from their vehicles and a medical helicopter was requested due to both suspects suffering major injuries, said County Fire spokesperson Ryan Vaccaro.

The driver of the Nissan fractured both her legs and suffered lacerations on her torso and was flown to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, while the driver of the Toyota suffered similar injuries and was transported by air to Loma Linda University Medical Center, Hunt said.

The cause of the crash is still under investigation.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20160920/two-women-flown-to-local-hospital-after-traffic-collision-in-helendale-late-monday>

Hesperia Chamber of Commerce recognizes 'Hometown Heroes'

Rene Ray De La Cruz, Daily Press

Posted: September 20, 2016, 5:52 PM



Four Victor Valley mayors stand alongside San Bernardino County Sheriff's and Fire department officials as Brad Letner, CEO and president of the Hesperia Chamber of Commerce, reads a joint proclamation recognizing the agencies during a Public Safety Hero Month appreciation luncheon on Monday. Rene Ray De La Cruz, Daily Press

HESPERIA — Four Victor Valley mayors gathered to help recognize a group of first responders during a Public Safety Hero Month appreciation luncheon on Monday.

Billed as an event to honor “Hometown Heroes” for making a difference in the community, Hesperia Mayor Pro Tem Paul Russ told the Daily Press the Hesperia Chamber of Commerce-sponsored event was, “The right thing to do considering how these brave men and women risk life and limb to protect the public.”

San Bernardino County Sheriff John McMahon and **County Fire Chief** Mark Hartwig thanked the audience for their support, adding that “a strong partnership” between their agencies was the recipe to success as they’ve battled fires and other public safety issues.

“Partnerships and relationships accomplish great things,” said McMahon, who praised the hard work and dedication of deputies, firefighters and other agency personnel. “These men and women in uniform do what they do, not because of a paycheck, but because of their passion.”

With his wife, Tawni, and two small children at his side, firefighter Cory Norton received a Hometown Hero award from Assistant Fire Chief Ron Walls.

Norton, who was diagnosed with a rare cancer of the spine in January, is one of many firefighters who risk the chance of getting cancer because of the frequent exposure to carcinogens, Walls said.

“Their family is our family,” Walls said. “We’ll stand with you until you beat this cancer and we are all Norton Strong.”

Hartwig said it was the heroic efforts of firefighters like Norton who put their lives in danger as they battled the Pilot Fire and the Bluecut Fire, an aggressive and erratic blaze that was fueled by dry brush and low humidity.

Hesperia Sheriff's Station Captain Gregg Wielenga presented Deputy Greg Jones with Hometown Hero Award for his work with a group of volunteers.

Jones oversees the Hesperia Station's Explorer Post, with its 35 members (age 14-20) who volunteered over 8,000 hours last year in a variety of community events, including instructional exercises, ride-alongs and competitions.

An officer field trainer since 2010, Jones was also instrumental in the creation of last year's Jolly Parade where sheriff's deputies, fire personnel and school police drove through the city and handed out cups of hot chocolate and candy canes during the Christmas season, the station reported.

"We are lucky to have the best Sheriff's Department and Fire Department in the state," said Brad Letner, CEO and president of the chamber. "We can't do enough to thank our first responders for their commitment and courage."

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20160920/hesperia-chamber-of-commerce-recognizes-hometown-heroes>