



# NEWS



## News Headlines 2/05/2018

- Hesperia father who drowned in California Aqueduct rescuing his son is identified
- **BREAKING:** Man missing after falling into aqueduct in Hesperia
- Father dies in 'tragic accident' after rescuing son from California Aqueduct in Hesperia
- Man dies after rescuing son, 9, from aqueduct
- Rotary to host annual plunge into Lake Arrowhead this Saturday
- Illegal Honey Oil Lab Found After House Fire in Hesperia
- SBC Fire engine involved in minor crash while responding to call

## **Hesperia father who drowned in California Aqueduct rescuing his son is identified**

Beatriz E. Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: February 5, 2018, 6:15 am

The father who drowned rescuing his 9-year-old son after the boy fell into the California Aqueduct in Hesperia Sunday, has been identified as Osbaldo Rodriguez, 31, of Hesperia.

Rodriguez and his son were riding bicycles when the boy lost control of his bike and went into the water, San Bernardino County Sheriff's officials said.

After rescuing his son, the 31-year-old man never resurfaced.

Authorities were called at 12:48 p.m., and the sheriff's dive team began searching for the man in the water near Rancho Road and 11th Avenue, east of the 15 Freeway. They found his body about 4:30 p.m. a short distance away from where he went in, authorities said.

"This man did what any reasonable person would do under these circumstances, he saved his son," wrote Cindy Bachman, spokeswoman for the sheriff's department in an email. "This is a very tragic accident."

The aqueduct is a popular area of bicyclists, walkers and joggers, but Bachman warns people should be extra careful because the water is very cold and swift-moving, and the sides of the aqueduct are very slippery, making it extremely difficult to hold onto anything for safety.

There were at least six deaths in the aqueduct in the Hesperia area in 2017. In February, a Victorville man drowned after rescuing his dog, which had fallen into the aqueduct.

In March, a Hesperia mom and two of her three young sons died when their car crashed through a fence and into the water; the 2-year-old boy's body wasn't found for two weeks. Another woman died after her car plunged into the water and became submerged in September.

<https://www.dailybulletin.com/2018/02/05/hesperia-father-who-drowned-in-california-aqueduct-rescuing-his-son-is-identified/>

## **BREAKING: Man missing after falling into aqueduct in Hesperia**

Staff Writer, VVNG

Posted: February 4, 2018



**HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com)** – San Bernardino County Fire Department personnel are working a swift water rescue in the California Aqueduct here in Hesperia Sunday afternoon.

At about 12:49 p.m. on February 4, 2018, 911 dispatch received reports of a man in the waters in the area of Rancho and 11th Avenue..

According to unconfirmed reports, the reporting party is a 12-year-old boy who said his father fell into the aqueduct and never resurfaced.

A sheriff's helicopter is also overhead assisting ground crews as they continue to search for the victim, described as a Hispanic Male in his early 30's.

The Department of Water Resources was advised and has stopped the water flow in the aqueduct.

As of 1:30 pm, the search for the man continues. The story is developing and information will be updated as it becomes available.

<https://www.vvng.com/breaking-man-missing-falling-aqueduct-hesperia/>

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## **Father dies in 'tragic accident' after rescuing son from California Aqueduct in Hesperia**

Gail Wesson, The Press-Enterprise

Posted: February 4, 2018, 4:02 p.m.

A man died Sunday while rescuing his 9-year-old son after the boy fell into the California Aqueduct in Hesperia, sheriff's officials said.

The father and son were riding bicycles when the boy lost control of his bike and went into the water, San Bernardino County sheriff's spokeswoman Cindy Bachman wrote in an email.

After rescuing the boy, the 31-year-old man never resurfaced.

Authorities were called at 12:48 p.m., and the sheriff's dive team began searching for the man in the water near Rancho Road and 11th Avenue, east of the 15 Freeway. They found his body about 4:30 p.m. a short distance away from where he went in, according to Bachman.

“This man did what any reasonable person would do under these circumstances, he saved his son,” she wrote. “This is a very tragic accident.”

The man’s name and hometown were not available Sunday night.

People should be extra careful near the aqueduct because the water is dangerous, Bachman said. The water is very cold and swift-moving, and the sides of the aqueduct are very slippery, making it extremely difficult to hold onto anything for safety.

Deaths in the aqueduct are not rare; there were at least six in the Hesperia area in 2017. In February, a Victorville man drowned after rescuing his dog, which had fallen into the aqueduct.

In March, a Hesperia mom and two of her three young sons died when their car crashed through a fence and into the water; the 2-year-old boy’s body wasn’t found for two weeks. Another woman died after her car plunged into the water and became submerged in September.

<https://www.dailybulletin.com/2018/02/04/dive-team-searches-for-man-in-california-aqueduct-in-hesperia/>

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## Man dies after rescuing son, 9, from aqueduct

Staff Writer, Daily Press

Posted: February 4, 2018, 8:17 p.m.



A San Bernardino County dive team member brings a 9-year-old’s bike out of the California Aqueduct on Sunday after the boy had fallen in the water. The boy’s father rescued him, but shortly after drowned. [Lewis Busch, LLN News]

**HESPERIA** — The San Bernardino County dive team recovered a man’s body from the California Aqueduct in Hesperia on Sunday afternoon after he jumped in to save his 9-year-old son, according to Sheriff’s officials.

The 31-year-old man failed to resurface after rescuing his son who had just fallen in while riding his bike along the aqueduct near Ranchero Road and 11th Avenue, according to San Bernardino Sheriff’s authorities. The father and son lived near where the incident occurred, authorities said.

At 12:48 p.m., Sheriff’s deputies responded to a emergency call and were met at the aqueduct’s edge by the 9-year-old boy who said his father had began to struggle to stay above the surface after rescuing him from the cold water.

Deputies searched the water and immediately requested a dive team. Divers searched for the man for several hours and found the man a short distance from where he went in just before 5 p.m. after crews shut down water flow to the aqueduct.

“This is a heartbreaking situation, but this man did what any reasonable person would do in these circumstances, he saved his son,” said Cindy Bachman, of the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Office. The boy was uninjured.

Family members of the victim said they heard him calling for help and went to see what was going on, but the boy’s father was already submerged in the water and moving down the aqueduct with the current, according to a KABC Channel 7 news report.

The victim’s identity was not released.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20180204/man-dies-after-rescuing-son-9-from-aqueduct>

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## **Rotary to host annual plunge into Lake Arrowhead this Saturday**

**Rhea-Frances Tette, Alpen Horn News**

Posted: February 4, 2018

It’s that time of the year again, when you can tell your boss or the president of your club to “go jump in the lake” and not necessarily get fired. It’s the 10th annual PolaRotary Bear Plunge, where members of various organizations lose all sense of decorum, put on funny costumes, and plunge into the chilly waters of Lake Arrowhead to raise funds for their groups and support the Rotary Club of Lake Arrowhead’s Rotary Foundation.

There are 97 jumpers already scheduled to jump in the lake this year, representing 26 different organizations. They hope to raise at least \$43,000 and reach the quarter million-dollar threshold of fundraising for this single annual event. The event has already raised over \$207,000 over the past nine years. Pali Mountain is jumping for the first time with fifteen jumpers supporting the Homeless Coalition; Rim Ed Foundation has twelve jumpers; Charlie’s 8 Angels are supporting Mountains Community Hospital; and Arrowhead Arts has another eight jumpers. “We have more jumpers and more teams than any previous year,” said Barbara Douth, PolaRotary Plunge CFO. “Come on out and enjoy the spectacle.”

If you don’t want to jump-in, they invite you to come for free and watch this fun event on Saturday, February 3, at 10 a.m. on the Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa’s private beach. It is hoped at least three other ‘crazy local folks’ will decide to jump into the lake, so they can reach the 100-jumper mark for the first time.

This hair-brained idea of jumping into the lake in the middle of winter came from Rotarian Dr. Patrick Rains to raise money for the Rotary Foundation. It’s styled along the traditional jog-a-thon concept, the jumpers get pledges before jumping. The first \$1,000 raised is split evenly between the jumper’s charity and Rotary, with every penny over that amount going directly to the jumper’s chosen charity or organization. Jumpers in past years have supported almost all the local non-profit groups, such as Soroptimists, Rim Ed Foundation, Recreation and Parks, Historical Society, churches, hospitals, schools, clubs and kids.

Dr. Rains, in his royal robes and crown as the King of the PolaRotary Plunge and Dr. Hugh Bialecki have the distinction of taking the plunge every year. The costume contest, in individual and team categories, is

coordinated by Sheila BenHur. The Rim High School Film Club will be filming the morning's festivities and each participant will receive a DVD of the event.

There are only three rules: No wet suits, no nudity and full submersion into Lake Arrowhead's cold water. **The San Bernardino County Fire** Cold Water Rescue Team will be on hand to assist, if needed. Afterwards, the jumpers may relax in the Resort's hot tubs and use their changing rooms and showers before they leave.

Last year's top fundraisers were the Rim of the World Communities Scholarship Council, funding their endowment for scholarships at Cal State San Bernardino and The Rim Ed Foundation, followed by Project Child Save. The Plunge chairmen are Rotarians Patrick Rains, Ron Douth and Bill Russell. "All funds are accounted for and donated to non-profits and charities," added CFO Barbara Douth.

Everyone will enjoy watching these community leaders sacrifice their dignity, and possibly health, to raise funds for others. Come out this Saturday to meet the jumpers and be entertained as they take the "plunge."

<http://alpenhornnews.com/rotary-to-host-annual-plunge-into-lake-arrowhead-this-saturday-p8608-170.htm>

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## Illegal Honey Oil Lab Found After House Fire in Hesperia

Staff Writer, VVNG

February 3, 2018



(Submitted Photo)

**HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com)** – A Friday afternoon house fire in Hesperia led to the discovery of an illegal honey oil lab.

Honey oil, often called 'butane hash oil' is made through several different chemical processes that are highly explosive and flammable. When produced in neighborhood's they produce a serious threat to other structures and children who are often present.

It happened at about 1:51 pm, when dispatch received reports of a house fire in the 18000 block of Birch Street in Hesperia.

According to a neighbor who called 911, he heard an explosion and saw fire coming from the windows of the residence.

Arriving **San Bernardino County Fire** units found the home with the windows blown out and fire moving into the attic. As they were battling the fire, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Deputies from the Hesperia station informed the fire command that the residence had a suspected honey oil extraction lab on the premises. A hazard warning for the potential for additional explosions was issued around 2:15 PM. The fire was contained and knocked down by firefighters.

At this time it's unknown if anyone was arrested or if any citations issued. Sheriff's officials have not released any information on the on-going investigation.

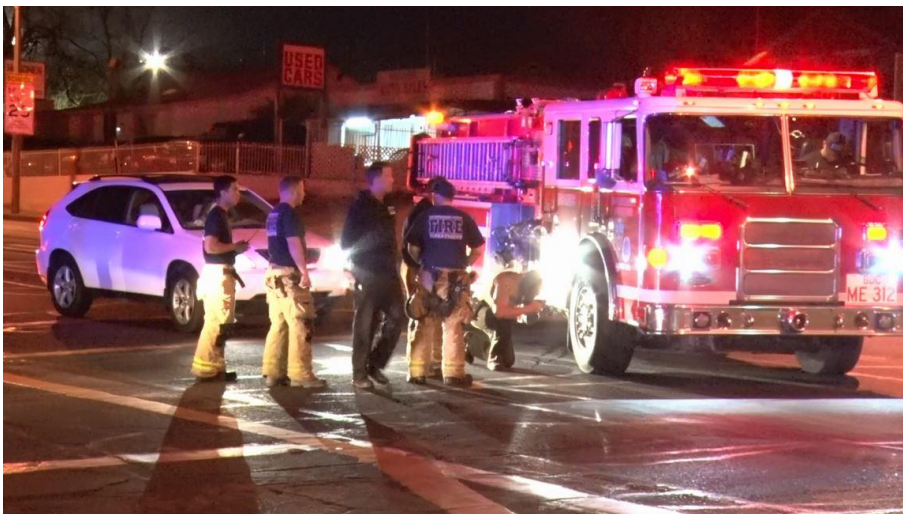
<https://www.vvng.com/illegal-honey-oil-lab-found-house-fire-hesperia/>

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## **SBC Fire engine involved in minor crash while responding to call**

**Staff Writer, VVNG**

February 2, 2018



(submitted photo)

**VICTORVILLE, Calif.** (VVNG.com) – A San Bernardino County Fire engine responding to an unrelated service call was involved in a minor traffic collision Thursday night.

At about 7:15 pm, Medic Engine 312 was responding to the report of a commercial structure fire at an abandoned high school on 7th Street.

As the engine approached the intersection of 7th Street and Forrest Avenue, the engine and a white SUV were involved in a minor crash.

According to a photojournalist who witnessed the crash, ME312 was attempting to turn right onto Forrest Avenue from 7th when the crash occurred.

Both vehicles sustained minor damage and no injuries were reported.

<https://www.vvng.com/sbc-fire-truck-involved-minor-crash-responding-call/>