



NEWS



News Headlines 12/06 - 09/2019

- Apartment Fire Leaves 1 Critically Injured in San Bernardino
- Resident refuses to leave burning San Bernardino apartment and is critically burned
- Firefighters rescue man from burning apartment building in San Bernardino
- Police help pull man out from burning apartment complex in San Bernardino
- Pedestrian hit on NB 15 Freeway Sunday night in the cajon pass
- Major Flooding, Mudslides And Deadly Winds Rip LA Area As Part Of Huge Storm
- CAJON PASS: One dead, several injured in 15 freeway crash Sunday
- PHELAN: Driver killed Sunday afternoon near Highway 138
- One dead in Friday crash on 15 Freeway in Cajon Pass
- Wishes fulfilled: Volunteers vow no one will go hungry or be alone on Christmas
- Holiday spirit lights up Hesperia
- COUNTY FIRE, MORONGO BASIN AMBULANCE, COLLECTING TOYS
- COUNTY FIRE LIFTS THE BURN BAN

Apartment Fire Leaves 1 Critically Injured in San Bernardino

Anthony Kurzweil, KTLA 5 News

Posted: December 9, 2019, 9:34 am

One person was left critically injured when a fire erupted at an apartment building in San Bernardino Sunday night.

The fire was reported about 10:47 p.m. in the 900 block of West Second Street, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** stated in a news release.

Responding firefighters were told there may be one person inside the building who was refusing to leave.

Video from the scene showed San Bernardino police officers and firefighters helping as many residents as they could evacuate the building.

Crews eventually made their way through heavy smoke and fire to get into the main apartment involved, successfully rescuing one person from the fire.

The unidentified person was taken to a local hospital with critical burn injuries. The Fire Department said no other injuries were reported.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

<https://ktla.com/2019/12/09/apartment-fire-leaves-1-critically-injured-in-san-bernardino/>

Resident refuses to leave burning San Bernardino apartment and is critically burned

Richard K. De Atley, Daily Bulletin

Posted: December 9, 2019, 9:30 am



The occupant of an upper-floor apartment in San Bernardino engulfed in flames refused to leave and was critically burned by the time he was rescued by firefighters, authorities said on Monday.

The injured man, who was not cooperative even as he was being saved, was taken to a hospital burn unit, said Eric Sherwin, a spokesman for the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

The fire also displaced several other people who lived in the two-story apartment complex in the 900 block of West 2nd Street.

While en route to the fire at 10:47 p.m. Sunday, firefighters got word that there was an occupant refusing to leave. They arrived to find smoke and fire from the upper floor.

Firefighters, along with San Bernardino police officers, evacuated the lower floor and adjacent units. Then the firefighters, under heavy fire conditions, went into the second-floor apartment and made the rescue before the blaze was put out.

The fire's cause was under investigation, Sherwin said, as was the man's reason for not wanting to leave his apartment. Investigators intend to interview him, Sherwin said.

The damage estimate hadn't been determined. The American Red Cross helped the displaced residents.

<https://www.dailybulletin.com/2019/12/09/resident-who-refused-to-leave-burning-san-bernardino-apartment-is-critically-burned/>

Firefighters rescue man from burning apartment building in San Bernardino

Mary Stringini, FOX 11 Los Angeles News

Posted: December 9, 2019



SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. - Firefighters are being credited for rescuing a man from a burning apartment building in San Bernardino on Sunday night.

The fire broke out just before 11 p.m. at an apartment complex in the 900 block of West 2nd Street, according to **San Bernardino County Fire** officials.

Firefighters arrived to discover the two-story apartment complex filled with smoke and fire coming from the upper floor. With the assistance of the San Bernardino City Police Department, the bottom floor and adjacent units were evacuated.

Under heavy fire conditions, firefighters made entry into the primary apartment, located an adult male victim, and successfully rescued him from the fire. The unidentified male was transported to the regional burn center in critical condition for immediate treatment of his injuries.

There were no other reported injuries to civilians or public safety personnel.

The Red Cross was notified in order to assist numerous residents who were displaced by the blaze.

The cause of the fire remained under investigation.

<https://www.foxla.com/news/firefighters-rescue-man-from-burning-apartment-building-in-san-bernardino>

Police help pull man out from burning apartment complex in San Bernardino

Staff Writer, ABC Eyewitness News

Posted: December 9, 2019, 4:59 am

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (KABC) -- A man was injured after a fire ripped through a two-story apartment complex in San Bernardino Sunday night, officials said.

San Bernardino County Fire responded to the blaze at about 10:47 p.m. in the 900 block of West 2nd Street. Upon arriving, firefighters were met with smoke and flames coming from the second floor, but were able to evacuate the bottom floor and adjacent units with help from police.

A man, who was reportedly refusing to leave, was rescued from the fire and transported after suffering severe burn injuries, according to fire officials. San Bernardino police officers were seen arriving to the scene and running into the burning building to help with evacuations.

Police helped pull the victim out from the fire.

The blaze was later knocked down and no other injuries were reported.

The fire department said the Red Cross was notified to assist with "numerous" displaced residents, although the exact number was not specified.

It was not immediately known how the fire began and the cause is under investigation.

<https://abc7.com/1-injured-after-blaze-erupts-at-san-bernardino-apartment-complex/5741164/>

Pedestrian hit on NB 15 Freeway Sunday night in the cajon pass

Gabriel Espinoza, Victor Valley News

Posted: December 9, 2019



(Sandy Reyes)

CAJON PASS, Calif. (VVNG.com) A pedestrian was transported to a hospital in grave condition after he was struck by a vehicle on the 15 Freeway Sunday night in the Cajon Pass.

The vehicle versus pedestrian crash was reported at 8:09 p.m. December 8th, 2019, on the northbound 15 Freeway just north of Mathews Ranch Road, between Kenwood Avenue and Blue Cut.

According to the California Highway Patrol logs, a female driver of a silver Lexus RS350 struck the pedestrian.

According to preliminary information from CHP logs, a caller advised that a white 4-door sedan was stopped in the middle of lanes and the driver appeared to be under the influence.

A male reportedly exited the white vehicle and was struck by a silver Lexus RS350, the logs indicated.

“We responded to a man down in front of a vehicle in the fast lane. The man was suffering from life-threatening injuries and was transported to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center,” Eric Sherwin, Public Information Officer for **San Bernardino County Fire** told Victor Valley News.

Officials shut down the #1, 2, 3, and 4 lanes, and briefly issued a SigAlert.

All lanes of traffic were reopened at 9:08 p.m., and no further information on the crash was immediately available.

<https://www.vvng.com/pedestrian-hit-on-nb-15-freeway-sunday-night-in-the-cajon-pass/>

Major Flooding, Mudslides And Deadly Winds Rip LA Area As Part Of Huge Storm

Staff Writer, Spring Hill Insider/InsiderFinancial.net

Posted: December 9, 2019

A storm that forecasters warned could be the most powerful in years barreled into Southern California on Friday, flooding freeways, causing landslides and downing trees and power lines.

One man was killed in the San Fernando Valley Friday afternoon when power lines fell on him. Nearly 100,000 people across the region were without power as the winds toppled electrical lines. Scores of trees also fell.

The National Weather Service issued flood warning for a large swath of Los Angeles County including Long Beach, Lakewood, southeast L.A., the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, Pasadena and Burbank. The alert last through 8 p.m.

Major flooding was reported in Goleta and the area around Santa Barbara Airport. The 101 Freeway at Seacliff in Ventura County was closed because of heavy rain and runoff.

In West Los Angeles, the 405 Freeway and 90 Freeway were also gridlocked by floodwaters. The 5 Freeway near Sheldon Street was also flooded. The 110 Freeway was closed on both directions in South L.A. at Slauson Avenue.

Flooded streets and freeway transition roads were also reported across the region.

Wind gusts reached up to 81 mph in Los Angeles County mountains Friday, according to the National Weather Service.

Evacuation orders were issued for areas where brush fires hit last summer, with officials worried about the potential for mudslides. Among the areas evacuated was a section of Duarte.

The majority of residents – 103 people – decided to stay indoors despite the city of Duarte’s evacuation order, according to deputy personnel on site, who are currently going door to door asking residents who stayed to sign a waiver.

As light rain fell on Alex Alarcon’s baseball cap, the Duarte resident spoke about why he decided to stay in his home despite the city’s evacuation order.

He had left work early Friday morning and planned to spend the night at a hotel with his wife, two children and dogs but decided against it when he noticed around 1 p.m. that the rain wasn't coming down as hard as he had initially thought.

Alarcon, who has lived in the area for six years, said that his home had a brush with mudslides not too long ago.

"I had mud sticking to the sidewalk right near my house," he said, pointing to an area around his mailbox.

But Alarcon wasn't too worried about Friday's storm. He and his family felt content about staying home.

In the San Bernardino County mountains, a landslide the size of three football fields was threatening several homes, a fire station and a major road used by hundreds of residents, fire officials said.

Four homes and a **San Bernardino County fire** station in the unincorporated community of Forest Falls are directly in the path of the hillside, which started moving about 10 a.m. Thursday, fire department spokesman Eric Sherwin said.

Two homes were vacant, and residents in the other two homes have voluntarily evacuated. Fire officials have removed equipment from the station to protect it from damage, he said.

The landslide is 300 yards wide and extends 1,000 feet from top to bottom in the Slide Canyon area, according to Sherwin.

Like a glacier, pieces of the hillside have been slowly breaking off and dropping into a drainage below.

"It's a lot of material," he said, "but it has a long time to come down."

But firefighters worry that Friday's powerful storm could hasten the process.

If the hillside – a mixture of snow, rock, soil and timber – travels down, it will spill onto Valley of the Falls Drive – a major road for residents living in the area. The blockage could trap a couple hundred residents for several days, Sherwin said.

The San Bernardino County road crews were placing concrete barriers along the drive to help divert mud and debris, he said.

The Los Angeles Fire Department was responding to dozens of reports Friday of downed power lines, including one instance in which a person died after suffering an electric shock.

The incident occurred at 12:43 p.m. in Sherman Oaks, fire department spokesman Erik Scott said.

Few details were available, but Scott said a large tree toppled onto power lines and landed on a vehicle.

It is unclear whether the victim was inside the vehicle, he said.

Firefighters turned off the power and cleared an area to rescue the victim, who was in serious condition and taken to a hospital, Scott said.

The Knott's Berry Farm amusement park in Buena Park closed Friday.

People who bought entry tickets for Friday may the park regarding refunds, Knott's said in a statement.

Southwest Airlines canceled hundreds of flights in and out of California on Friday.

About 250 of the airline's flights to or from Burbank, Los Angeles, Orange County, San Francisco and San Diego, among others, were canceled Friday, an airline spokesperson said.

American Airlines also canceled a host of flights to and from Orange County, and the aviation website flightaware reported 48 cancellations at Los Angeles International Airport.

Trains were delayed at Union Station Friday evening because of storm activity.

The storm, part of a warm "atmospheric river," was swollen with moisture and poised to pour rain onto burn-scarred areas in local mountains and foothills.

Between 2 and 6 inches of rain was expected to fall over the next 24 hours, depending on the area, with some seeing rainfall at a pace of an inch an hour – the kind of isolated, heavy downpour that can send mud and debris flows cascading into neighborhood streets.

Snow levels are anticipated to be at 8,000 feet Friday night, lowering to 6,000 feet on Saturday, according to the weather service. Because of the heavy precipitation, 1 to 2 feet of snow could fall above 8,000 feet in Los Angeles and Ventura counties, and 6 to 12 inches are possible above 6,000 feet.

After a brief respite Sunday, another storm system is expected to move into the region early next week, bringing several more days of rain, forecasters said.

<https://insiderfinancial.net/major-flooding-mudslides-and-deadly-winds-rip-la-area-as-part-of-huge-storm.html>

CAJON PASS: One dead, several injured in 15 freeway crash Sunday

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: December 8, 2019



(Photo by Victor Salcedo)

CAJON PASS, Calif. (VVNG.com) — At least one person is deceased and several others were injured following a major traffic collision on the 15 freeway Sunday morning.

The crash was reported just after 10:20 AM on the southbound I-15 in the Cajon Pass just south of Oak Hill Rd.

San Bernardino county fire and the California highway patrol arrived on scene and located two vehicles with major damage.

One person was declared deceased on scene by emergency personnel, that person was lying in the roadway next to a green sedan in the center divider.

In addition to the one deceased person, scanner traffic indicated that two other people sustained critical injuries, and another three sustained minor injuries.

Reports indicate that at least two children were involved in the crash.

According to the California Highway Patrol incident logs, one of the involved vehicles was reckless driving and spun out, causing the collision.

Southbound traffic on the I-15 is reportedly backed up to about Ranchero Road. Caltrans was advised to respond and assist with lane closures around the scene.

This is a developing story and additional information will be updated as it becomes available.

<https://www.vvng.com/cajon-pass-one-dead-several-injured-in-15-freeway-crash-sunday/>

PHELAN: Driver killed Sunday afternoon near Highway 138

Gabriel Espinoza, Victor Valley News

Posted: December 8, 2019



PHELAN, Calif. (VVNG.com) A driver was killed Sunday afternoon after veering off the highway and into an embankment.

The call was dispatched at 1:38 p.m. in the area of Sheep Creek Road and State Route 138 on December 8, 2019, according to the California Highway Patrol incident logs.

San Bernardino County Fire Department arrived on scene, along with CHP, and pronounced the driver of the vehicle dead at the scene.

According to the incident logs, the vehicle was not visible from the highway following the crash.

The logs reported the vehicle as a semi-truck, however, witnesses are reporting a green/white sedan possibly an older model Honda. A VVNG photographer is en route to the scene to confirm.

This is a breaking news story, please check back for updates.

<https://www.vvng.com/phelan-semi-truck-driver-killed-sunday-afternoon-near-highway-138/>

One dead in Friday crash on 15 Freeway in Cajon Pass

Gabriel Espinoza, Victor Valley News

Posted: December 6, 2019

Cajon Pass, Calif. (VVNG.com) —A person sustained fatal injuries in a crash on the 15 freeway Friday night.

It happened on the southbound 15 freeway at Highway 138 near the 76 Gas Station.

San Bernardino County Fire responded to the crash at about 9:40 p.m. and declared one person deceased.

When firefighters arrived on scene, they located a gray sedan with major damage facing the wrong way in the center divider, according to scanner traffic.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Deputies also assisted with blocking traffic for emergency vehicles.

The #1 and #2 lane is closed for an unknown duration. The #3 and #4 lane remain open, but traffic is experiencing heavy delays.

"So sad. We passed the scene right after it happened. It's wet through the Cajon Pass, so I'm sure that was part of the reason why the driver lost control," commented Sara Lee on a Victor Valley News Facebook post.

CHP officials requested the coroner's response at approximately 9:45 p.m., and was given an estimated time of arrival of 25 minutes.

No details on the vehicle were immediately available.

The cause of the crash is currently under investigation by the California Highway Patrol.

<https://www.vvng.com/one-dead-in-friday-crash-on-15-freeway-in-cajon-pass/>

Wishes fulfilled: Volunteers vow no one will go hungry or be alone on Christmas

Jene Estrada, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: December 6, 2019



The Torres family meets Santa's helper before receiving toys on Christmas Day.

YUCCA VALLEY — On Christmas Day, a massive volunteer effort will continue the labor of love started by the late Mara Cantelo three decades ago when she vowed no one in the Morongo Basin would have to be hungry or alone on Christmas.

The event is called Mara's Christmas Wish, in honor of Tender Loving Christmas founder Mara Cantelo, who died Sept. 11, 2017.

This year, Mara's Christmas Wish will be held from 12:30 to 6 p.m. Dec. 25 at the Yucca Valley Community Center.

The theme this year is Gingerbread Land, with the decoration team led by Kristie Anderson.

Anyone interested in volunteering should attend the weekly planning meetings, held at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at the Yucca Valley Community Center.

Toy donations are needed and Morongo Basin Ambulance and **San Bernardino County** fire employees will accept new, unwrapped toys from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday Dec. 7, Dec. 14 and Dec. 21 in front of Walmart.

Donation boxes are set up at businesses across the Morongo Basin, like Mojave Mami's Lash & Skin Studio at 56925 Yucca Trail.

The major sponsor this year is town of Yucca Valley, using Measure Y sales tax money.

The legacy of Mara Cantelo

In the wake of Cantelo's death, a cadre of volunteers decided they would continue on in Cantelo's legacy. Led by Paul Hoffman and Gigi Connell, the group made sure the main events of Tender Loving Christmas went on. A month after her death, they served the traditional free Christmas buffet at the Yucca Valley Community Center for anyone in the Morongo Basin who wanted to participate. Children visited with Santa and got bags of toys. People of all ages got free clothing. And everyone was invited to the day of fellowship that Cantelo envisioned all those years ago.

Andrea Garcia, a volunteer for Tender Loving Christmas since 1999, returned after Cantelo's death for Mara's Christmas Wish and said it was an honor to continue her friend's legacy.

"It's been hard for me this year. Mara was like a second mother to me. She taught me so much," Garcia said in 2017. "I miss her."

Since that difficult year Mara's Christmas wish has lived on, said Connell.

"It typically gets bigger and bigger every year but this year we had 1,854 people line up to get food," said Connell, president of the Mara's Christmas Wish board of directors, during Mara's Christmas wish last December.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_0e99afda-1874-11ea-9610-cf716711e050.html

Holiday spirit lights up Hesperia

Staff Writer, Victorville Daily Press

Posted: December 6, 2019, 2:07 pm

HESPERIA — The weather was just right this year as Santa Claus came to town on a red fire engine Thursday night, joining the community for the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony at Civic Plaza Park.

More than 1,500 people attended the event hosted by the Hesperia Recreation and Parks District — with support from the City of Hesperia, the local school district and fire department — for an evening of Christmas carols, holiday cheer and vendors from across the community.

Poor weather canceled last year's event, and chilly temperatures plagued the lighting two years ago. However, this year, with 40-degree weather, no wind and clear skies, the holiday spirit shined through.

Students from local schools, including Carmel Elementary School and the Sultana and Oak Hills High School choir clubs, sang Christmas carols.

Santa stayed on-site to greet the crowd, flanked by **San Bernardino County Fire** Department personnel. Children and families lined up across the park to greet him and have photos taken.

Hot chocolate was available courtesy of Masters Water and Coffee Service. Several local vendors set up shop to offer food and souvenirs to guests and help celebrate the holiday cheer.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20191206/holiday-spirit-lights-up-hesperia>

COUNTY FIRE, MORONGO BASIN AMBULANCE, COLLECTING TOYS

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: December 6, 2019



Morongo Basin Ambulance will be in front of the Yucca Valley Walmart from 9am till 3pm on 12/7, 12/14, and 12/21. Help us fill the ambulance with toys to support Mara Wish toy drive benefiting local children. Your donation of a new unwrapped toy or cash can also be dropped off now till 12/21 at our Headquarters Station at 6335 Park Blvd., Joshua Tree. MBA photo

Mara's Christmas Wish has partnered with Morongo Basin Ambulance and the **County fire** department in Yucca Valley for a toy drive at Walmart. Firefighters and paramedics will be in front of Walmart every Saturday, through December 21, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. to accept new, unwrapped toys that will be distributed to children on Christmas Day during Mara's Christmas Wish annual dinner at the Yucca Valley Community Center. Toy donations may also be dropped off at MBA headquarters, 6335 Park Boulevard in Joshua Tree, at your local fire departments, and at the Z107.7 studio in Joshua Tree, Monday through Friday, between 8:30 and 4:30 p.m.

<http://z1077fm.com/county-fire-morongo-basin-ambulance-collecting-toys/>

COUNTY FIRE LIFTS THE BURN BAN

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

December 6, 2019

County Fire Chief Dan Munsey has announced that effective today (Friday, December 6), the County's burn ban has been revoked due to lower temperatures and increased precipitation. Open fires, except for campfires, must meet permit requirements. And regardless of permits, Munsey said all open fires are prohibited during Red Flag warnings or fire watch conditions, when winds exceed 10 miles per hour, or when directed by fire officials. Morongo Valley Fire Chief Gary Yearsley said there is no burn ban for Morongo Valley residents. CalFire has also lifted the burn ban in State Responsibility Areas. Managing editor Tami Roleff offers the following tips for safe outdoor burning...

While cooler temperatures and recent rains have helped to diminish the threat of wildfire, residents are asked to use caution while conducting debris burns. Burn permits are required for all burning projects. Residents must follow burning requirements and maintain control of their fire at all times. Property owners may be held liable if a fire escapes their control and/or burns the property of a neighbor. Contact your nearest CAL FIRE station or local fire department to acquire the proper permit. For more information on how to safely burn outdoors, see the links below:

<https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/>

<http://www.PreventWildfireCA.org>

<http://z1077fm.com/county-fire-lifts-the-burn-ban/>