



NEWS



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Firefighters battle blaze in multi-unit strip mall off Seventh Street

Kevin Trudgeon, Daily Press

Posted: August 23, 2018, 8:33 a.m.



San Bernardino County Fire Department crews battle a structure fire off Seventh Street in Old Town Victorville Thursday morning. [Kevin Trudgeon, Daily Press]

VICTORVILLE — A structure fire along Seventh Street in Old Town sent black smoke billowing into the sky Thursday morning.

Reported at 7:10 a.m. as a fire in a reportedly vacant commercial building in the 15500 block of Seventh Street, near C Street, San Bernardino County Fire Department personnel found a “multi-unit strip mall with heavy smoke and fire,” spokesman Eric Sherwin told the Daily Press.

Due to the amount of fire and the layout of the strip mall, Sherwin said it was quickly upgraded to a second alarm fire with additional units responding.

Firefighters began an interior attack to combat the blaze, but due to the degree of fire involvement in the building, a retreat was ordered and crews began a defensive attack, using the ladders on the engines to try and knock down the bulk of the blaze with elevated streams.

Seventh Street was shut down in both directions as crews continued to work on the fire as of 8:20 a.m. and Sherwin said a total of eight engines, two trucks, three battalion chiefs, a heavy rescue team and a fire investigator all responded to the scene.

The building was reported to be unoccupied and abandoned, but once the fire is under control primary and secondary searches will be used to confirm that.

“As of now there are no injuries reported,” Sherwin said. “The building is not commercially occupied, but we do have reports that it’s often occupied by homeless. To this point, we haven’t had any reports of people physically being in the building, but it’s known to be occupied at times.

“We’ll begin confirming if anyone was in there once we’re able to make entry into the building.”

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20180823/firefighters-battle-blaze-in-multi-unit-strip-mall-off-seventh-street>

Your lives and property at risk

Steve Ball, Hi Desert Star

Posted: August 22, 2018

This letter should concern all residents of Yucca Mesa, Flamingo Heights, Johnson Valley and Copper Mountain Mesa. The fire tax proposal that the San Bernardino County fire department is trying to get passed should concern the residents of all of the above communities. Here is why. If this tax gets passed, the county fire chief will close Station 42 at 58612 Aberdeen Drive just west of Avalon on Yucca Mesa.

The county fire department is running in the red. They know it and the county residents know this. Let me say this. Our county firefighters and fire officers are the best of the best. They risk their lives 24 hours a day, 365 days a year knowing they may not return home to their loved ones at the end of their shifts. These men and women do not get paid enough for what they do.

Now Chief Hartwig claims it will serve the Morongo Basin and the outlying areas better by moving the Yucca Mesa station 42 down into town where there is already a fire station, farther away from our outlying areas. He says it will give the fire department a better response time. Chief Hartwig also says this will save the county money.

How does closing a perfectly functioning fire station owned by the county, most likely paid for, then spending a lot of money to buy land and then spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on a brand new fire station — how is that saving money?

I was in the fire service for 20 years and made it to the rank of fire captain. I know the importance and outcome of a quick response time. Ask yourselves this question. If you live anywhere on Yucca Mesa or any of the small communities surrounding the mesa and you have any type of fire in or near your home or a family member has a life-threatening medical emergency, would you want the ambulance and fire engine with life-saving equipment and water and hoses to come from Yucca Mesa or Yucca Valley? I know my answer.

We all are in this rural area for a variety of reasons. For me and my wife and pets, one of those reasons is having fire and medical response in my area. Please sound off and voice your concern!

So I ask all of the residents of Yucca Mesa, Landers, Flamingo Heights, Copper Mountain Mesa and Johnson Valley to speak out about this fire tax.

There is one more meeting about this fire tax. It will be at 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 27, at the Joshua Tree Community Center located at 6171 Sunburst Ave. in Joshua Tree.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/article_e4147cac-a66b-11e8-8856-53702c247f8f.html

2 airlifted, 3 injured after SUV crashes into house in Victorville

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: August 22, 2018



VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Two people were seriously injured and needed to be airlifted to trauma centers after a crash caused an SUV to slam into a house off Nisqualli Road in Victorville.

San Bernardino County Fire Department Battalion Chief Bill Mahan told Victor Valley News they responded to a traffic collision at about 6:19 p.m., at the intersection of Nisqualli Road and Third Avenue.

“Units arrived on scene to find a vehicle inside of a house with two serious, what we call immediate injuries, and three what we classify as delayed (minor injuries), basically it was a carload of adults and children” the battalion chief stated.

The new homeowner Guillermo Serratos just purchased his house two months ago. He said in a recorded interview, “We were having dinner and we heard this roaring sound and then my kids were like ‘what’s going on,’ and it got louder and louder and then boom, the whole house shook and everybody just ran out.”

Upon firefighters assessing the need to cut the vehicle apart using extrication techniques, other resources from San Bernardino County Fire, AMR, and Mercy Air was called in to assist. These resources included two additional fire trucks, several ambulances, and two helicopters.

Once extrication was complete, the more critically injured occupants were transported to various hospitals and further airlifted to out-of-area trauma centers. Those who sustained relatively minor injuries were transported to local hospitals.

Victorville department of Building and Safety were requested to inspect the home, which sustained major damage.

Serratos said he was thankful his son was not inside his room at the time of the crash. ” I was concerned if the people were ok, then I started thinking about everything else and said wow,” he said in shock, “we can’t even open the door.”

The cause of the crash remains under investigation at this time.

<https://www.vvng.com/2-airlifted-3-injured-after-suv-crashes-into-house-in-victorville/>

Man airlifted after crashing into front yard of home in Hesperia

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: August 22, 2018



A man was airlifted after a crash in Hesperia on Wednesday August 22, 2018. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — One person was airlifted following a crash here Wednesday.

It happened at about 6:06 p.m. on August 22, 2018, on the 16100 block of Grevillea Street in Hesperia, just east of Old Ranchero Road.

Hesperia Deputies and the personnel from the San Bernardino County Fire Department responded to the call and located an overturned truck with a single occupant inside.

For reasons still under investigation, the driver, an adult male of a red Ford pickup truck, lost control and crashed through a chain-linked fence then overturned in the front yard of a home.

The man had to be extricated which took firefighters about 20 minutes to free him.

Helicopter H325 was requested to land at the Hesperia Airport to further airlift the victim to a trauma center with unknown injuries.

No further information was immediately available.

<https://www.vvng.com/man-airlifted-after-crashing-into-front-yard-of-home-in-hesperia/>