



NEWS



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Firefighters knock down junkyard blaze

Kurt Schauppner The Desert Trail

Posted: July 6, 2017, 8:47 PM



A firefighter keeps watch over a burning vehicle at a junkyard Thursday night, July 6.

TWENTYNINE PALMS — **County firefighters** made quick work of a fire that burned through several wrecked vehicles at a junkyard at the east end of Baseline Road Thursday evening, July 6.

The fire was contained to a small portion of the yard and was under control before 8:30 p.m. Black smoke rising hundreds of feet into the air from the fire was visible from miles around, including as far away as the front gate at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center.

A witness said the blaze began in a motor home at the site.

Phillip Donnelly, who lives in Joshua Tree, said he was towing his car to the yard so a friend could help him make repairs when he saw smoke coming from the motor home.

He added that he backed away and called the fire department. He noted that sheriff's deputies arrived first, followed by firefighters, who arrived five minutes later.

The fire attracted a few lookie-loos who kept their distance while watching firefighters working. Jacob Marquis said he and a friend had just gotten off work at the Taco Bell on board the combat center when they saw the smoke from the front gate and came down to investigate.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/the_desert_trail/news/article_f9f66c22-62c6-11e7-84cd-93453fce2781.html

2 dead in Friday collision near Kramer Junction

Patti Orr, Mojave Desert News

Posted: July 10, 2017, 9:09 AM



First responders on scene at the scene of fatal traffic collision Friday near Kramer Junction.

Kramer Junction – A three-vehicle accident claimed the lives of two people on the afternoon of July 7, 2017. The accident occurred at 2:10 p.m. approximately 1.4 miles west of Kramer Junction on the eastbound side of Highway 58. The accident involved a Blue GTC Kenworth tractor-trailer, a Silver Toyota Camry and a White Toyota Tacoma pickup truck.

The Kenworth tractor-trailer rig ended up on the north side of the highway and the White Tacoma landed upside down on top of the Silver Camry.

Kern County Fire Station 17 out of Boron along with **San Bernardino County Fire Department** out of Helendale arrived a short time after the accident as well as Barstow CHP Officers Erickson, Rice and Vogele. Traffic became backed up along the eastbound lane as far west as the Boron Ave. onramp and some travelers detoured through Boron in order to get to Kramer Junction, only to be met with more stalled traffic.

According to Barstow CHP Public Information Officer Adam Carmichall, “a Kenworth tractor-trailer was traveling east on Highway 58 towards Kramer Junction when it came upon traffic which was slow moving. The semi allegedly collided with the back-end of a Silver Toyota Camry and as a result, the Silver Camry was pushed into the rear of a White Toyota Tacoma pickup truck; which resulted in the Tacoma overturning onto the top of the Camry. Two unidentified passengers in the backseat of the Silver Camry were pronounced deceased at the scene by emergency personnel; the driver of the Camry was taken by ambulance to Victor Valley Hospital while the front passenger of the Camry was airlifted by Mercy Air 14 to Antelope Valley Hospital with unknown injuries.”

The San Bernardino County coroner’s office later referred identified the two people killed in the accident. According to the coroner’s report, the “two rear-seat passengers in the Camry, Mathew Thomas Woodall, age 33, and Nicolett Elaine Conley, age 31, both of Bakersfield, were pronounced dead at the scene from injuries.”

The driver of the semi and the occupants of the Tacoma were not transported and traffic continued to move slowly throughout the investigation in both directions.

The San Bernardino County coroner's office arrived a while later and removed the deceased victims from the Camry, then Barstow Towing arrived on scene to remove the vehicles from the shoulder of the roadway.

Barstow CHP Officer Vogele was the lead investigator while Officers Erickson and Rice assisted with the investigation into the accident.

<http://www.ridgecrestca.com/news/20170710/2-dead-in-friday-collision-near-kramer-junction>

Several animals killed in Twentynine Palms fire

Beatriz E. Valenzuela, Press Enterprise

Posted: July 10, 2017, 12:33 PM

Several animals, initially reported as dogs, were killed in a fire Sunday afternoon in Twentynine Palms, San Bernardino County Fire Department officials said.

The fire broke out just before 2 p.m. at a property in the 1500 block of Wilson Way, according to Ryan Vaccaro, an engineer paramedic with the Fire Department.

“When firefighters arrived they found a fully engulfed RV and shed to the rear of the property,” Vaccaro said.

Firefighters were able to knock the fire down in less than 10 minutes. They later found the animals.

It appears the animals died as a result of the fire, he said.

County Animal control was called to the property. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

<http://www.pe.com/2017/07/10/several-animals-killed-in-twentynine-palms-fire/>

Highway 138 Closed due to crash; 6 injured including kids

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: July 10, 2017



(Brandi Nichelle for Victor Valley News)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) A stretch of Highway 138 is currently closed following a major injury traffic collision Monday afternoon.

The multi vehicle crash was reported at 3:37 pm, on Highway 138 near Wagon Train Road just east of the 15 freeway.

For reasons still unknown, a red Toyota Camry, a silver Nissan pickup truck, and a white van hauling a trailer were involved in a collision.

“A total of five ambulances were requested to the scene to transport six patients to various hospitals,” according to public information officer Ryan Vacarro.

Per scanner reports, two people were classified as having critical injuries.

Per CHP incident logs, Highway 138 is closed in both directions just east of the 15 freeway for an unknown duration.

The California Highway Patrol is investigating the crash.

Information will be updated as it becomes available.

<http://www.vvng.com/highway-138-closed-due-crash-6-injured-including-kids/>

Special Meeting: Victorville City Council to talk pot tax, public safety services

Daily Press

Posted: July 11, 2017, 9:00 AM

VICTORVILLE — Following a tumultuous meeting on June 20, the Victorville City Council will hold a special meeting tonight to discuss possible tax measures regarding public safety and cannabis.

The meeting, which will begin at 5 p.m. with a closed session followed with a workshop convening at 6 p.m., will be held at Victorville City Hall, 14343 Civic Drive.

The Council voted 4-1 in February to terminate its contract with the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** once it expires in July 2018. City spokesperson Sue Jones previously said County Fire had notified the city of a \$3 million increase to the contract for capital costs.

The notice to terminate allows the city to explore other service options, including CalFire and the Apple Valley Fire Protection District, according to Jones, who said a public bidding process would be launched soon. The city hopes County Fire also will bid.

An urgency ordinance that would have amended the city's Municipal Code to regulate the "personal, medical and commercial use of marijuana" within city limits was tabled on June 20 amidst protests from the cannabis community.

All Council meetings are available to view online at Ci.Victorville.Ca.Us.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170711/special-meeting-victorville-city-council-to-talk-pot-tax-public-safety-services>