



# NEWS



## News Headlines 04/03/2019

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## **Motorcyclist airlifted after crashing into Salvation Army truck in Hesperia**

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: April 3, 2019



(Photo courtesy of Christina Scott)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A motorcyclist was airlifted to a trauma center after he collided with a ‘Salvation Army’ truck on Tuesday afternoon, officials said.

It happened April 2, 2019, at about 1:02 pm, near the intersection of Cottonwood Avenue and Juniper Street in Hesperia.

The crash involved a 2011 Harley Davidson motorcycle and a 2012 Kenworth Truck belonging to the Salvation Army.

**San Bernardino County Firefighters** arrived at the scene and requested helicopter H325 to airlift the 43-year-old male motorcyclist to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center. The rider was reported to be conscious and alert at the time of transport, radio traffic reported.

Through investigation, deputies learned the motorcycle and the truck were both traveling northbound on Cottonwood Avenue when the crash occurred.

According to sheriff’s spokesman Edgar Moran, the Kenworth truck began to initiate a left-hand turn; The Harley then attempted to pass the truck on the left and collided with the batter box of the truck.

No other injuries were reported as a result of the crash.

<https://www.vvng.com/motorcyclist-airlifted-after-crashing-into-salvation-army-truck-in-hesperia/>

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## **SMALL FIRE IN LANDERS TUESDAY**

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: April 3, 2019

Yucca Mesa firefighters were called to a structure fire in Landers Tuesday afternoon, but when they arrived at the scene near Sage Avenue and Reche Road just after 4 p.m., they discovered it was a trash fire. Mulch was burning and had spread to some nearby rubbish. Firefighters put out the blaze in about 10 minutes and were on scene about an hour.

<http://z1077fm.com/small-fire-in-landers-tuesday/>

## One person dies in Needles house fire

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: April 3, 2019



(Photos courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire)

NEEDLES, Calif. (VVNG.com) — One person was killed and a second was badly burned after a house fire in Needles, officials said.

On Tuesday, April 2nd, at 9:46 pm **San Bernardino County Fire** responded to multiple reports of a structure fire near the intersection of J Street and West Broadway in the city of Needles.

Additional 911 callers stated that they could hear yelling inside the structure.

Firefighters arrived to discover a single-story residence fully involved in fire. Sustained winds over 20 mph were pushing the blaze through the entire structure.

With life safety as their top priority, firefighters attempted to make entry into the building but were pushed back by extreme fire conditions. An occupant who had exited the structure prior to arrival was assisted by the fire crew.

Due to the percentage of fire involvement, energized power lines down around two sides of the building, and an exposure threat to surrounding residences, firefighters engaged in a defensive attack in an attempt to limit the spread of the fire. Multiple explosions were heard during the initial stages of the fire attack.

County Fire personnel were reinforced by engine companies and chief officers from the Mohave Valley and Golden Shores Fire Departments. Firefighters were ultimately able to gain control of the blaze approximately thirty minutes into the incident and confined the burn to the building of origin.

Of the two occupants who were in the structure at the time of the fire, one suffered fatal injuries. The second victim, an adult female, was airlifted to University Medical Center – Las Vegas for treatment of serious burn injuries. There were no other injuries reported on scene.

Damage estimates were not available at the time of this release. The structure which had several add-ons was destroyed and is a complete loss. The explosions were attributed to numerous gas cylinders located inside of the residence. The cause of the fire is under investigation through County Fire's Office of the Fire Marshal and San Bernardino County Sheriff's Arson/Bomb detail.

<https://www.vvng.com/one-person-dies-in-needles-house-fire/>

## Fire in Needles kills one person, injures another

Matthew Cabe, Daily Press

Posted: April 2, 2019, 11:30 pm

NEEDLES — A two-structure fire that broke out here late Tuesday killed one person and injured another, according to posts on the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department's Twitter account.

County Fire crews responded to the blaze inside a single-story commercial building near West Broadway and J streets, some 500 feet northeast of Interstate 40, around 10 p.m.

The building was fully engulfed when firefighters arrived, an initial tweet showed.

One unidentified person was found at the scene with a burn injury. A second unidentified person was pronounced dead, according to the tweet. A helicopter transport was requested for the burn victim.

County Fire crews began a defensive attack, but the fire spread to a second building. Another tweet reported energized lines down to the rear of the building.

Fire crews from Arizona and elsewhere were en route to assist as of 10 p.m.

A County Fire spokesperson could not be reached for comment late Tuesday. No updates had been posted as of 11 p.m.

This story is breaking and will be updated as more information is made available.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20190402/fire-in-needles-kills-one-person-injures-another>

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## Judge denies request to delay county fire tax

Martin Estacio, Daily Press

Posted: April 2, 2019, 7:36 pm



County fire officials said the revenue from an expanded tax of landowners is needed to address a \$29 million budget deficit and to maintain existing services. [Daily Press file photo]

SAN BERNARDINO — A judge has denied a nonprofit organization's request for a preliminary injunction that would put a **county fire** service zone expansion and parcel tax on hold.

In issuing his decision on March 15, Superior Court Judge Donald Alvarez gave several reasons for ruling against the request by Red Brennan Group and accompanying parties.

The lawsuit was filed in response to the County Board of Supervisors' 3 to 2 approval in October of an expansion of County Fire Prevention Zone, or FP-5.

The expansion added over 19,000 square miles of unincorporated county land and some cities to the zone, and levied an annual tax of \$157.26 on all parcels in that area. Supervisors also established a possible maximum increase of 3% per year.

County fire officials said the revenue is needed to address a \$29 million budget deficit and to maintain existing fire services.

RBG argued that the tax issue should be placed on the ballot and approved by a two-thirds majority vote in accordance with Proposition 218. The proposition states that, “no local government may impose, extend, or increase any special tax” without a vote of the people.

After agreeing to consider the zone expansion, the Board instituted a protest process in which mailers were sent to affected landowners in September.

The process rules stipulated that if at least 25 percent of landowners sent back protest forms — which were not included in the mailer, but available online or by calling county officials — the expansion would be put to a vote.

Process rules called for the expansion to be killed outright if more than 50 percent protested.

At the Oct. 16 meeting, however, it was revealed the mailed responses totaled about 3 percent.

Alvarez agreed with the county, citing a previous California Court of Appeal decision that concluded Proposition 218 did not apply to annexations and taxes that are already imposed.

The judge also ruled that a remedy barring a tax that hasn’t been collected yet was improper.

Alvarez cited taxation code and state constitution language prohibiting such action and a “pay first, litigate later” rule that prevents courts from “unduly interfering with the flow of tax dollars that fund government operations.”

According to an RBG statement, the tax is scheduled to appear on affected landowners’ November property tax bill.

A third factor which the judge considered, and RBG called a “technicality” in the statement, was that the group failed to adequately inform the public that they were suing a public agency.

According to civil procedure code, the suing party must, within 60 days of filing a complaint, publish a summons once a week for three successive weeks in a newspaper advising all interested persons of the matter.

He said that RBG may be able to “circumvent this requirement upon a showing of ‘good cause’,” but concluded that it wasn’t demonstrated in their filings.

“This ruling is by no means the final word on FP-5,” said RBG spokesman Tom Murphy. “While this is a disappointing result, it is a skirmish in the larger legal battle.”

Alvarez still has yet to decide on a motion filed by the county to dismiss the lawsuit entirely.

Murphy said he expects that decision to come before a hearing on Thursday. If Alvarez dismisses the lawsuit, Murphy said RBG will “have a separate strategy to pursue in that case.”

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20190402/judge-denies-request-to-delay-county-fire-tax>