



NEWS



News Headlines 9/14/2018

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San Bernardino County Firefighters Get \$355,000 for Hazmat Training

Staff Writer, Mountain News

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Firefighters \$355k (from Aguilar)

A federal grant of \$355,148 has been awarded to the **San Bernardino County Fire Protection District** (SBCFPD), according to a Sept. 5 announcement from Rep. Pete Aguilar. A democrat, Congressman Aguilar is the U.S. Representative from California's 31st Congressional District and a native of Fontana.

The funding, which will be used to provide hazardous materials training for San Bernardino County firefighters, comes from the Federal Emergency Management Administration's (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Fire Prevention Operations and Safety Program.

"California is facing an exceptionally challenging fire season, and we need to do all we can to make sure that our local firefighters have every resource they need," said Rep. Aguilar.

He continued, "Earlier this year I hosted a workshop to connect local fire departments with critical federal resources because we need to make sure they're equipped to handle any emergency. **San Bernardino County firefighters** have demonstrated their heroism time and time again, and I'm proud to announce these funds that will provide training to help keep them safe and help keep our community safe."

Ben Wurzell, media specialist for county fire explained, "Our mountain communities will benefit from the training by making more Hazmat responders readily available to respond to any type of hazardous materials incident."

Which firefighters from Lake Arrowhead and other mountain communities and how many will receive the training is not yet determined. "At this point, we do not have specific information on which personnel will be selected to receive the training," Wurzell said.

"Firefighters from all over the **San Bernardino County Fire Protection District** will receive the training. Priority access will be given to fire suppression personnel. If additional openings are available, they will be offered to local fire departments who participate in hazardous materials response," Wurzell added.

The program is already in place, according to Wurzell. "This funding will allow the Fire Protection District to put more personnel through the training." The educational sessions are scheduled to take place in various locations throughout the county, he said.

Fire Chief Mark Hartwig said, "The men and women of the **San Bernardino County Fire Protection District** are extremely grateful to Congressman Aguilar and FEMA for their support of San Bernardino County by awarding our agency the grant. This grant will help us continue to protect our citizens by providing additional hazardous materials training to our team. Funding will allow the Fire Protection District to bolster

our Hazmat capabilities by over 40 percent daily. Additionally, in conjunction with the California State Office of Emergency Services, the Fire Protection District will also be able to assist on any type of Hazmat response throughout the State of California. This is great news for the residents of San Bernardino County and the great state of California.”

As part of his efforts to bring federal resources into the Inland Empire, Rep. Aguilar held a grant training workshop for local fire departments earlier this year. The workshop, which was attended by representatives from SBCFPD, focused on best practices for FEMA grant applications, including the AFG Program that funded this award.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Rep. Aguilar has been a consistent advocate for the AFG Program and successfully fought for a funding increase in Fiscal Year 2018.

http://www.mountain-news.com/news/article_18ed2d9e-b778-11e8-8e6c-37cd55831527.html

Students read 6 million words, 19,127 books

Hector Hernandez Jr., Highland Community News

Posted: September 13, 2018



Bethanne Prince of reads to students at the California Speech-Language-Hearing Association booth at the fifth annual Alliance for Education Reading Rally held at Cal State University, San Bernardino.

For nearly 1,200 kindergarten through third-graders Friday, Sept. 7, was a day to celebrate reading during the Alliance for Education's fifth annual Reading Rally at Cal State University, San Bernardino.

The event, sponsored by San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools office, aimed to spark a love of reading and help establish critical, strong reading habits among the young students from throughout the county.

County Superintendent Ted Alejandre opened the day of reading activities by impressing on students the importance of literacy and congratulating them on surpassing the summer reading challenge to read 5 million words set by the San Bernardino County Footsteps2Brilliance Initiative.

Through the program's online reading app students collectively reported reading 6,071,500 words, 19,127 books between June 1 and Sept. 7. Approximately 2,500 hours of reading.

"Our goal is to promote reading, promote literacy as the key foundation to being successful in school and to being lifelong learners," said Lynne Kennedy, a senior administrator for Alliance of Education, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools. "We also want to support what our teachers are doing in the classroom to make sure that we cultivate a positive attitude toward reading and learning."

The event partnered with numerous libraries educational and community organizations to host reading events, story times, puppet shows and book giveaways.

According to County Schools School Health Program Coordinator John Juniper it was an "all-hands-on-deck effort." Juniper read "The True Story of the Three Little Pigs" dressed as the wolf trying to clear his name.

"I love having the students here and seeing their enthusiasm for reading and their interacting with the storytellers," Kennedy said.

The event was co-sponsored by Cal State San Bernardino with contributions and participation from: Auto Club Speedway, California Speech-Language Hearing Assoc., Child Assistance Fund, Child Care Resource Center, First 5 San Bernardino, Inland Empire Health Plan, **County Fire Department**, County Library, County Preschool Services Department, Quality Start San Bernardino and United Way.

https://www.highlandnews.net/news/schools/students-read-million-words-books/article_b74cf558-b775-11e8-a902-d3a5afbef97a.html

ROCK CLIMBER RESCUED IN JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK THURSDAY

Staff Writer, Z107.7 News

Posted: September 14, 2018

A rock climber was injured while climbing in Joshua Tree National Park Thursday. According to **County Fire** Captain Jett Schuster, park rangers, Joshua Tree firefighters, and Morongo Basin Ambulance were called to the Hemingway area in the park about 7 p.m. Schuster said the woman, who was wearing safety gear, fell about 30 to 40 feet, but landed in a spot where she couldn't get out about 100 feet above the ground. Park rangers were first on scene and climbed up to her, and firefighters also climbed up to get her down. She was transported by Mercy Air to a local trauma hospital with multiple injuries. Schuster reminds residents and rock climbers to bring water and cell phones with them when in the park.

<http://z1077fm.com/rock-climber-rescued-in-joshua-tree-national-park-thursday/>

OVERLOADED GENERATOR BLAMED FOR FIRE IN FLAMINGO HEIGHTS THURSDAY MORNING

Staff Writer, Z107.7 News

Posted: September 13, 2018

An overloaded generator is blamed for an early morning fire that burned a recreational vehicle, car, and shed in Flamingo Heights today. **County Fire** Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle said firefighters from Yucca Mesa, Yucca Valley, Joshua Tree, and Calfire were called to the blaze in the 1900 block of Old Woman Springs Road at 4:24 a.m. The first firefighters arrived on scene at 4:33 and the fire was knocked down at 4:55. Tuttle said the generator had lots of things plugged in to it, and the generator overheated, causing the fire to start with the RV. The fire then spread to a car and shed next to the RV, but Tuttle said firefighters did a great job of keeping the fire from spreading to the mobile home and other RVs parked nearby.

<http://z1077fm.com/overloaded-generator-blamed-for-fire-in-flamingo-heights-thursday-morning/>