News Headlines 07/28-31/2023

➢ York Fire in Mojave National Preserve explodes to 70,000 acres, crosses into Nevada
➢ 3 killed when departing plane crashes in hangar of Cable Airport in Upland
➢ Wildfire fund offered to those affected by fire hardship
York Fire in Mojave National Preserve explodes to 70,000 acres, crosses into Nevada
By Rene Ray De La Cruz, Victorville Daily Press
July 31, 2023

The York Fire exploded to 70,000 acres on Sunday after first being reported on Friday in the Mojave National Preserve, southeast of Interstate 15 Mountain Pass.

The vegetation fire began east of Cima Road on Maruba and New York Mountain roads in the national preserve, San Bernardino County Fire Department officials said.

On Sunday afternoon, 192 firefighters battled the fire, which continued to spread in a northeast direction and at a moderate rate of speed, crossing over from California into Nevada.

San Bernardino County fire crews are joined by the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management and Clark County firefighters.

The fire was at 0% containment on Sunday.

Clark County officials reported no plans to issue evacuation orders for residential areas, including Nipton and Searchlight as the fire remains quite a distance from those areas.

Fire’s ‘extreme behavior’

The fire’s expansion and “extreme behavior” continue to be fueled by windy conditions and dry fuel, which include desert scrub, juniper and Joshua tree woodland, InciWeb stated.

In some areas, fire crews observed 20-foot high flames, which indicated the intensity and severity of the fire, which had created dangerous conditions, InciWeb reported.

Firefighters on Sunday continued to construct fire lines and extinguish flames, while air resources dropped water or fire retardant to create fire breaks and reduce the fire’s intensity and spread.
Roads closed

State Route 164 and Highway 95 in Searchlight, Nevada were closed on Sunday. In the Mojave preserve, Ivanpah Road, Hart Mine Road and Walking Box Ranch roads were closed along with the Castle Mountain National Monument, according to the park service.

Clark County Fire has set up a mobile command near Searchlight and Nipton.

Smoke from the fire has drifted into Southern Nevada, with air quality in some areas of Clark County being listed as “unhealthy.”

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

A pilot and two passengers were killed Sunday morning after their plane crashed into a hangar at Cable Airport and caught on fire.

The Federal Aviation Administration said the single-engine Beechcraft P35 crashed into the hangar during its departure around 6:30 a.m. at the west end of the runway of the airport at 1749 W 13th St. in Upland.

San Bernardino County firefighters put out the fire and pronounced the three victims dead at the scene, Upland Police said in a statement.

The hangar, which housed three helicopters used by the Ontario Police Department, had moderate exterior damage, and no one else was injured. Firefighters were able to save the helicopters, which are expected to return to normal operations once the hangar is accessible, said Fire Engineer Eric Sherwin.

The circumstances of the crash are being investigated by the National Transportation Safety Board and the FAA.

The fatal plane crash marks the third one in the Inland area this month, following two fatal crashes involving small airplanes near the French Valley Airport.

On July 4, the pilot of a Cessna Skyhawk was killed, and three others were injured after the plane crashed and flipped just a few feet away from the airport.

Four days later, the six occupants of a Cessna C550 business jet died after the plane crashed and was engulfed in flames near the airport runway.
Wildfire fund offered to those affected by fire hardship

By Gabriel Hart, z1077FM
July 29, 2023

With the wildfire season among us, The Inland SoCal United Way has set up the San Bernardino and Riverside County Wildfire Fund for those affected.

Households in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties who meet eligibility requirements for those displaced or damaged by fire may receive up to $500 in financial assistance to help pay for costs incurred due to fire to help replace lost items, hotel stays, or other fire related needs.

Eligible households must be residents of San Bernardino or Riverside county, and earn less than 80% of Area Median Income. They also must demonstrate costs incurred or loss of income due to recent fire or evacuation event within the last 6 months.

To apply for assistance, visit Inland SoCal United Way: https://inlandsocaluw.org/fire-fund

https://z1077fm.com/wildfire-fund-offered-to-those-affected-by-fire-hardship/