



NEWS



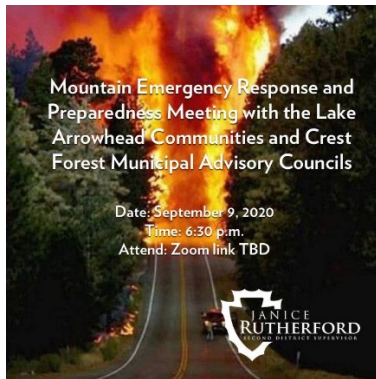
News Headlines 09/03/2020

- Emergency Response and Preparedness Meeting
- People and dogs escape fire on Yucca Valley property
- County Firefighters are in the Heat of the Battle Against Wildfires
- House Fire Leaves Five Homeless

Emergency Response and Preparedness Meeting

Staff Writer, Mountain News

Posted: September 02, 2020, 4:47 PM



The Lake Arrowhead & Crest Forest Municipal Advisory Committees (MAC) will hold a combined meeting on Wednesday, September 9, 2020, 6:30 pm, Via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81800076209?pwd=VDhzeFVZMTd2d0g0MFQvOGxUZTQvZz09>

Meeting ID: 818 0007 6209

Passcode: 937090

The topic will be: Mountain Emergency Response and Preparedness.

The following speakers will be addressing preparedness, evacuation, fire response, and recovery.

Prevention

- **San Bernardino County Hazard Abatement:** Andres Diaz, Code Enforcement Officer III
- Southern California Edison: Jennifer Cusack, Government and Legislative Affairs
- Arrowhead Communities Fire Safe Council: Gerry Newcomb
- Mountain Rim Fire Safe Council: Laura Dyberg

Fire Response

- **San Bernardino County Fire:** Chief Dan Munsey / Chief Katherine (Kat) Opliger
- US Forest Service: Battalion Chief Brian Grant / District Ranger Marc Stamer
- CAL FIRE: Division Chief Tony Jones

Law Enforcement and Evacuation

- San Bernardino County Sheriff: Captain Don Lupear
- California Highway Patrol: Lt. Michael Salinas
- Caltrans: Joycelyn Whitfield, Manager, Governmental Affairs & Legislative Affairs

Response and Recovery

- American Red Cross: Robert Anderson, Disaster Program Manager

The next meeting of the Crest Forest MAC is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

The next meeting of the Lake Arrowhead MAC is scheduled for Thursday, October 1, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

<https://mountain-news.com/news/39943/emergency-response-and-preparedness-meeting/>

People and dogs escape fire on Yucca Valley property

Jene Estrada, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: September 02, 2020, 4:39 PM



Firefighters work on the scene of a structure fire in Yucca Valley Thursday. Credit: Aaron Comstock photo

YUCCA VALLEY — A fire erupted in the Onaga area of Yucca Valley Thursday morning, engulfing a detached structure next to a house. No one was hurt.

Crews from the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department were dispatched to a home on Victor Vista Avenue at 5:17 a.m. Firefighters from the Yucca Valley, Joshua Tree and Yucca Mesa stations responded to the scene.

Upon arrival, the firefighters found that a detached structure of the residence was fully involved, said County Fire Battalion Chief Mike McClintock.

The residents were unhurt and firefighters helped them getting all of their dogs safely out and away from the fire.

They were able to put out the fire in about 10 minutes, McClintock said, and remained on the scene for another hour doing cleanup.

The cause of the fire is unknown and is under investigation.

<https://hidesertstar.com/news/178070/people-and-dogs-escape-fire-on-yucca-valley-property/>

County Firefighters are in the Heat of the Battle Against Wildfires

Staff Writer, Mountain News

Posted: September 02, 2020, 4:47 PM

Fires are continuing to range throughout California, with well over one million acres having burned since August 15. Combating these blazes are more than 14,000 brave men and women — including many from the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department.

“Our people are battling multiple fires throughout the state, assisting in wildfire suppression and lending both equipment and expertise to the effort,” said Fire Chief Dan Munsey. “They are working with fire personnel from federal, state and local agencies on a collaborative effort to protect property and save lives.”

Many of the fires ravaging the state have been triggered by lightning, with an estimated 11,000 lightning strikes responsible for some 367 fires, which are then exacerbated by dry conditions and searing temperatures. The most devastating fires are largely concentrated in the northern part of the state.

The County Fire Department is part of the state's Master Mutual Aid system, a cooperative emergency-response program established to fight major forest and brush wildfires. County firefighters, management and equipment are dispatched to areas of the state facing the greatest threats. For example, County firefighters previously battling the Lake Fire in north Los Angeles County were recently redeployed to the Carmel Fire near Salinas. County crews are also contributing to the fight against the LNU Lightning Complex, primarily focusing on preventing the destruction of structures.

Chief Munsey stressed, however, that while County firefighters have traveled north to fight some of the state's worst fires, the department has not neglected local blazes.

"We have fought the Ranch 2 Fire in the Angeles National Forest, the Dome Fire in the desert between the I-15 and I-40 highways, and a vegetative fire in Joshua Tree, among others," Chief Munsey said. "At the same time, we're careful to ensure that our own stations are covered, and regularly respond to small fires in the County before they become more dangerous conflagrations."

San Bernardino County Fire resources deployed to other counties are fully reimbursed for all costs through the Master Mutual Aid agreement.

Munsey also noted that peak fire season — which is typically occurs between late September and the end of October — is still more than a month away. He emphasized the steps local residents can take to reduce the threat and help protect their own homes and businesses.

"We have created a series of tools and materials to help County residents prepare for potential fires, all of which can be found on the San Bernardino County Fire website. Our "Ready! Set! Go! – Fire" program provides a wealth of information that can make the difference between inconvenience and disaster."

He urged residents to download the San Bernardino Community Preparedness App, which features a five-step family emergency plan creation wizard, relevant news and timely alerts from the County, live information on evacuation routes and shelters, one-button status sharing, and a library of emergency preparedness eGuides.

Chief Munsey also suggested following the department's Twitter and Facebook feeds to access updated information on an almost real-time basis.

<https://mountain-news.com/news/39942/county-firefighters-are-in-the-heat-of-the-battle-against-wildfires/>

House Fire Leaves Five Homeless

Angela Yap, Mountain News

Posted: September 02, 2020 5:01 PM



Community in unity - Locals brought in donations from cash to clothing.

A house fire leaves a household of four adults and one 5-year-old boy homeless over the weekend.

The house fire broke out at a three-story house located on Zurich Drive in Crestline on Saturday afternoon. The house was quickly engulfed in fire, and spread through the hillside vegetation to approximately 25 acres.

Crystal (Meadow) Wright was home with her 5-year-old son Tommy when the fire started. Other family members were not present but saw the fire and smoke from around town and eventually rushed back to the neighborhood.

“My son Tommy was taking a bath and I was getting ready for work,” said Crystal Wright, a single mom who works at Amazon Warehouse in San Bernardino. “We smelled smoke from the bathroom so when we got out of the bathroom and faced with intense smoke and fire all around us - so I grabbed Tommy and ran out to the deck.”

The deck was located in the middle floor of the house, where Crystal thought was safe. “With my bare feet, I felt the heat coming up from below the deck and I saw fire spreading very quickly throughout the house so I picked up my son Tommy and our pet Toby and ran to the back of our house and screaming for help - and we basically were trapped with a hillside behind us and the fire was spreading fast,” said Crystal who then climbed through the back wall and hillside running away from the burning house with her son.

“At this point we saw Toby in distress with fire surrounding him, so I ran back to get him and his paws were burned,” added Meadow. “There was no time to take anything else.”

The fire department arrived at this time. Running Springs Fire Department, **San Bernardino County Fire**, Cal Fire joined forces and battled the house fire and vegetation fire on ground, with air attack deploying helicopters and fire bombers.

Toby is a special pet for Tommy, said Crystal, “We got Tommy the puppy to comfort him after his father was killed last month in a motorcycle accident.”

Tommy just started kindergarten this week at Mt. Calvary Lutheran school, and he is surrounded by very supportive people, said Crystal.

Crystal's mom, Jenne Moses, works at Mountain Transit and she was away from the house when the fire broke.

Her granddaughter Lilly who works as a driver at a local pizza place, and her sister Lisa who is a retired police, also shared the same rental house with Crystal.

A GoFundMe account has been set up by a neighbor, Jennifer Solorio, who also organized a community donation drive for the family last Sunday. "The community all showed a overwhelming support of love! They showed up with money, clothes, prayers and love!" said Jennifer Solorio.

"Crystal Wright saved her 5-year-old son Tommy and their 9-week old puppy, Toby, from the fire," Jennifer added. "Toby suffered burns to his paws and was taken to the Vet Hospital in Grand Terrace immediately." "Jennifer is our Angel," said Jenne Moses. "She helped us so much with donations and coordinated three truck loads of clothing for us. We are also very thankful to the community."

Niki Wiessner, a Crestline resident who lives about half a mile from the structure fire said she was ordered to pack for evacuation on standby.

"We packed everything in two hours and were waiting," said Wiessner. "We could see seven airplanes hitting with water and Phos-Chek. I was fairly confident they would get the fire out."

The immediate need for the family is to find another rental house on the mountain as soon as possible. Anyone interested in helping can contact Jennifer Solorio via email at jjenn11177@yahoo.com or Jenne Moses POB 4021, Crestline CA 92325.

<https://mountain-news.com/news/39947/house-fire-leaves-five-homeless/>