News Headlines 11/01-11/02/2020

- Brush fire at border of Fontana and Jurupa Valley stopped at 75 acres; evacuation order canceled
- Vehicle Fire in the Sugar Bowl of Twentynine Palms
A brush fire at the border of Fontana and Jurupa Valley on Sunday, Nov. 1, in the Jurupa Mountains area prompted an evacuation of residents for a few hours. The evacuation order was lifted after fire crews stopped the growth of the fire.

The Cypress fire was reported near Citrus Avenue, south of where it meets Jurupa Avenue, San Bernardino County Fire Department officials said on social media at 1:42 p.m. Authorities had helped nearby residents in Fontana evacuate as of 4 p.m., Fontana Police Officer Kevin Anderson said.

The fire was burning in hills north of the 60 Freeway, near Martin Tudor Jurupa Hills Regional Park, where authorities established a command post, Anderson said. It spread rapidly east and south along a slope in light vegetation, and had charred 75 acres by 4:45 p.m.

Roughly 150 firefighters from the San Bernardino County, Cal Fire/Riverside County and Cal Fire San Bernardino tackled the blaze. Ground and air crews fought to keep flames west of Sierra Avenue as of 3:45 p.m.

Teams succeeded in preventing flames from crossing east past Sierra Avenue, San Bernardino County Fire Battalion Chief Mike McClintock said. Firefighters managed to halt the fire’s growth by 5:30 p.m. and had the fire 10% contained at that time. They will remain in the area to reinforce fire defenses and conduct mop-up operations.

About 100 homes east of Sierra Avenue had been possibly threatened by the fire, which came within 100 feet of some structures, McClintock said. Mandatory evacuation orders were issued, but later lifted as of 6 p.m., McClintock said.

Police working with fire investigators took one person in custody in connection with the blaze’s origin, Anderson said. They were working to confirm if that person may have had anything to do with sparking the blaze as of 4:20 p.m.; no arrests had been made at that time.

The fire started “well off the roadway,” and away from any obvious signs of ignition, McClintock said.

“It is suspicious given where it started,” he said. “There weren’t any downed power lines or burning vehicles in the area.”
Temperatures in communities surrounding the fire peaked between 88 and 93 degrees, while relative humidity hovered between 15% and 25%, National Weather Service meteorologist Mark Moede said. Winds were calm throughout the day, and were expected to remain under 5 mph through the evening.

Vehicle Fire in the Sugar Bowl of Twentynine Palms
Staff Writer, z1077fm.com
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The soft sand made it difficult for firefighters to reach the vehicle fire in the Sugar Bowl area of Twentynine Palms Sunday. Photo courtesy MaryKay Sherry.

Sheriff’s deputies are investigating a vehicle fire in Twentynine Palms Sunday. Deputies and firefighters were called at 1 p.m. to a pick-up truck burning in the Sugar Bowl area, near Amboy Road and Shoshone Valley Road. County Fire Battalion Chief Mike McClintock said the soft sand roads made it difficult for fire engines from Twentynine Palms and the Combat Center to reach the 2008 Nissan Titan, which was fully involved in flames. The owner of the truck was not at the scene when crews arrived, but deputies were able to locate him. He said he had left the truck at the intersection of Lear Avenue and Indian Trail due to a flat tire. McClintock said there was no immediate threat to vegetation from the blaze. The Sheriff’s Department is investigating.

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