



NEWS



News Headlines 12/31/2020-01/04/2021

- Sheriff's helicopter hoists hiker off Clark Mountain to safety
- S.B. County provides information about getting help for an illness or injury during pandemic
- Pedestrian injured in Highland Avenue collision
- Woman dies in Colton apartment fire
- Fire strikes Mariposa Avenue home
- Burning Suspension Lifted In San Bernardino County
- Part One Of A Four Part Series, The Top Stories Of 2020

Sheriff's helicopter hoists hiker off Clark Mountain to safety

James Folmer, Redlands Community News

Posted: January 3, 2021



A San Bernardino County sheriff's helicopter hoisted a stranded hiker to safety Thursday afternoon off Clark Mountain, the highest mountain in the Mojave National Preserve.

At 2 p.m. Dec. 31, the CHP alerted the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Desert Dispatch Center about the hiker, 27-year-old Christopher Halsch, who was on a steep slope at the 7,000-foot level.

Sheriff's Aviation 40King6 was dispatched and contacted Halsch by phone to get his exact location via GPS coordinates

"Halsch could not hike any further due to the terrain," said a press release. "He was not dressed for the cold weather and the weather was getting worse."

The crew consisted of pilot Deputy Paul Kowalski, flight officer Corey Lawrence and **San Bernardino County Fire** Capt. Spencer Brumbaugh.

Halsch said he did not have any injuries, had a charged cell phone and some water.

"Due to the circumstances, it was determined that a hoist rescue was required. Kowalski flew directly to Halsch's location and conducted a hover while Lawrence lowered Brumbaugh via the hoist to Halsch," the release said. "Brumbaugh placed Halsch in a rescue harness and he was hoisted into the helicopter. Halsch was dropped off at a safe location off the mountain. 40King6 returned to pick up Brumbaugh off the mountain side."

The crew then picked up Halsch and flew to a location off Interstate 15 and released him to park rangers, who took him to his vehicle near the Nevada border.

https://www.redlandscommunitynews.com/news/public_safety/sheriff-s-helicopter-hoists-hiker-off-clark-mountain-to-safety/article_213dc56e-4e00-11eb-867f-57c81b60d007.html

S.B. County provides information about getting help for an illness or injury during pandemic

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: December 31, 2020



San Bernardino County Fire personnel respond to 911 calls. (Contributed photo by San Bernardino County)

With the coronavirus tightening its grip on the hospital and emergency medical systems, people are often left wondering how to best seek treatment when they become sick or injured.

For many, all they know are ambulances and hospital emergency departments. However, those last-resort options represent but a fraction of the full health care system available to the public.

“San Bernardino is similar to other counties throughout the region in its approach to providing health care to its residents and visitors,” said Tom Marshall, deputy chief of the **San Bernardino County Fire Protection District** and incident commander of San Bernardino County All-Hazard Incident Management Team #1 (XBO IMT).

Primary care providers, physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants are the front line for life-long health care.

“These providers develop relationships with their patients through annual check-ups and management of chronic health conditions. They are also an excellent source for emerging illnesses or minor injuries,” Marshall said.

Primary care providers represent the highest concentration of health care providers in the system.

When illnesses or injuries occur outside of normal business hours (or if a patient is traveling), urgent care facilities and health clinics are staffed and equipped to handle these same illnesses and often provide advanced care such as X-rays and wound treatment. While not as robust as the primary care system, the extended hours of urgent care facilities, many of which are open 24 hours a day, are a strong support network for the primary care providers. There are more urgent care beds and providers than emergency department beds in the region.

----- WHEN YOUR BEST CHOICE IS THE EMERGENCY ROOM

For patients with life-threatening illnesses or complex injuries, the emergency department is the destination of choice.

This subset of patients can require the assistance of numerous health care workers. Treating one seriously ill or badly injured patient often involves multiple nurses and physicians. Representing the smallest component

of the health care system, the emergency department is often the first to be overwhelmed with patients who can be treated elsewhere, resulting in wait times that can last several hours.

When the intensive care unit of a hospital is at capacity, the overflow goes to the emergency department (ED) due to the training and capabilities of the ED staff. This also creates a shortage of available beds in the ED. ICU patients held in the ED often require the dedication of an ED nurse who would otherwise be able to manage three patients at once. This lack of beds and staffing creates a backup in the system that cannot be undone as additional patients continue to arrive by ambulance and private vehicle.

Ambulances that arrive at an emergency department with no open beds are forced to wait. This decreases the number of ambulances available for additional 911 calls.

“Many agencies have a standard of arriving on scene of a 911 call in under 10 minutes,” said Nathan Cooke, deputy chief of the Chino Valley Fire District and Deputy Incident Commander of the XBO IMT. “However, the effects of a hospital system stretched to its limits creates a trickle-down effect that threatens the stability of the 911 emergency medical system.”

----- CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

"We can find the best care for ourselves and our loved ones by utilizing the full capacity of the health care system," the county said in a news release. "Contact your primary medical provider or nurse advice line for routine medical concerns or to discuss your symptoms. If it's an urgent situation such as the need for a prescription refill or a minor laceration that may need to be sutured, urgent cares stand ready to help."

Recently, paramedics and EMT's in San Bernardino County who respond to 911 calls and determine that a patient is stable and not suffering from any life-threatening or life disabling event began educating and referring patients into these alternate avenues of the healthcare system.

“This has resulted in the mutual benefits of ensuring patients receive appropriate care for their current complaint, decreasing the workload of the emergency departments and keeping ambulances available for the critically ill and injured,” Chief Marshall said.

Calling 911 for advice is never appropriate, nor will call-takers provide advice during the call. Seeking ambulance transport to an emergency department for a COVID-19 test or in hopes of receiving the COVID-19 vaccine is likewise inappropriate and serves only to further stress a system that is at its limit.

"No one wants to be sick, especially around the holiday season," the county said. "With the triple threat of colds, flu, and COVID-19, your safest actions remain frequent hand washing, sanitizing commonly touched surfaces, limiting contact with others to essential activities, and wearing a mask when social distancing cannot be maintained. We are all in this together. Help us help you."

For more information and current recommendations, go to www.sbcovid19.gov.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/s-b-county-provides-information-about-getting-help-for-an-illness-or-injury-during-pandemic/article_e1e84094-4b91-11eb-8979-738347f68070.html

Pedestrian injured in Highland Avenue collision

Staff Writer, Highland Community News

Posted: December 31, 2020



On Friday, Dec. 25, at about 8:26 p.m., sheriff's deputies from the Highland Police Station and emergency personnel from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** responded to a traffic collision involving a pedestrian and a gold 2008 Honda Accord on Highland Avenue east of Victoria Avenue in the city of Highland.

Through preliminary investigation it was determined a 33-year-old male pedestrian, for unknown reasons, was in the eastbound number two lane of Highland Avenue. The Honda Accord, driven by a 42-year-old female, was traveling east on Highland Avenue in the number two lane east of Victoria Avenue. The Honda struck the pedestrian and immediately stopped to call 9-1-1. Emergency personnel arrived and provided life saving measures. The pedestrian was transported to Loma Linda University Medical Center in critical condition.

Investigators from the Region II Major Accident Investigation Team (MAIT) responded and assumed the investigation. Investigators are seeking additional witnesses.

Anyone who may have witnessed the collision is urged to contact Deputy C. Sahagun at the Apple Valley Station at (760) 240-7400 or Deputy M. Lee at the Victorville Station at (760) 241-2911. Those wishing to remain anonymous may call WeTip at (800) 78-CRIME or wetip.com.

https://www.highlandnews.net/news/pedestrian-injured-in-highland-avenue-collision/article_1bc305f6-4b01-11eb-9193-afc0b6fd8604.html

Woman dies in Colton apartment fire

Brian Rokos, The Press Enterprise

Posted: January 2, 2021



A Nova Pointe Apartment Community resident retrieves belongings from their apartments in building 10 after a fatal fire at the complex in the 800 block of Washington Avenue in Colton on Saturday, January 2, 2021. (Photo by Terry Pierson, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG)

A woman died Saturday morning, Jan. 2, in a fire at a large apartment complex in Colton.

The fire was reported at about 9:30 a.m. at the Nova Pointe Apartment Community at 800 E. Washington St.

Colton firefighters arrived to find flames consuming a downstairs unit and spreading to the second floor. Those firefighters, assisted by crews from the Loma Linda, **San Bernardino County**, Redlands and San Manuel fire departments, were able to limit the spread upstairs.

Firefighters found an elderly female who had died inside the downstairs unit, said Capt. David Santos, a Colton fire spokesman. A second person, a nephew, was able to get out.

The cause of the fire and the woman's death were under investigation, Santos said.

The residents of the eight-unit building were all displaced because the electricity was turned off.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2021/01/02/1-person-dies-in-colton-apartment-fire/>

Fire strikes Mariposa Avenue home

Kurt Schaupper, The Desert Trail

Posted: January 2, 2021 at 8:55AM



Firefighters battle a house fire on Mariposa Avenue Saturday morning, Jan. 2.

TWENTYNINE PALMS — A Marine and two children will need to find a new residence following a fire that struck a home in the 5400 block of Mariposa Avenue, north of Siesta Drive here Saturday morning, Jan. 2.

Firefighters from **county fire** station 44, arriving at the fire a little before 8, made quick work of the blaze which sent a column of smoke high into the Twentynine Palms sky.

A neighbor said he did not think anyone was living at the house. He said his wife noticed smoke from the roof of the building at about 7:45. She said sheriff's deputies arrived on scene shortly before firefighters arrived.

Firefighters could be seen on the roof of the building, using a chainsaw to cut through the roof and get at the flames. Other firefighters accessed the house through the front door.

Deputies were on hand to keep spectators from getting too close and interfering with the work of firefighters.

Battalion Chief Mike McClintock said residents of the home, a rental unit, included a Marine and two children who will be displaced by the fire, which caused significant damage to the kitchen and living quarters in the two-bedroom home.

The fire, he said, was first noticed and reported by a passing delivery driver at 7:53 a.m. First firefighters were on scene six minutes later.

Firefighters found smoke and fire coming from the rear of the house. They worked their way inside the home to search for people but found the house was empty.

“The tenant was out of town at the time of the fire,” he said. “Nobody was home.”

Firefighters, he said, had the fire knocked down in about 15 minutes.

The tenants, he added, will be referred to the Red Cross for help with housing and will also be expected to work with their landlord.

No injuries were reported.

And engine from station 44 in downtown Twentynine Palms was joined by medic engine 36 and engine 451 from the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in fighting the blaze.

<https://hidesertstar.com/news/178590/fire-strikes-mariposa-avenue-home/>

Burning Suspension Lifted In San Bernardino County

Staff Writer, z1077fm.com

Posted: January 4, 2021



Effective today, January 4, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** is lifting the suspension of open burning in all six county divisions, including the greater Morongo Basin area. Reporter Andrew Dieleman has the details...

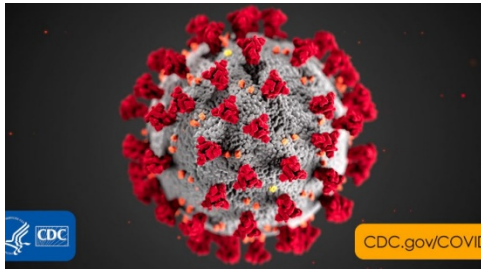
Due to increase of precipitation and lowering temperatures, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** has revoked the suspension of all open burning and other open fires countywide, including the Morongo Basin. The order does not include Morongo Valley, where open burns are still suspended. Burn permits are still required for conducting any residential or agricultural open fire. For more information on additional restrictions or to secure a permit, visit www.sbcfire.org.

<http://z1077fm.com/burning-suspension-lifted-in-san-bernardino-county/>

Part One Of A Four Part Series, The Top Stories Of 2020

Staff Writer, z1077fm.com

Posted: January 4, 2021



This week Z107.7 takes a look at the top stories of 2020 in a four-part series. Today, in part 1, the top story has to be the COVID-19 pandemic. From the first reported case in California on January 26, a state-of-emergency order on March 4, the first shut-down order on March 19, and the first vaccinations on December 17, the coronavirus has up-ended life as we know it, with a shuttered economy, a recession, and a move to work-from-home for millions of Americans. Students, parents, and teachers have struggled with on-line learning; graduation ceremonies were moved to virtual and drive-by ceremonies; and student sports were cancelled for an entire year.

This year is expected to be the deadliest in US history; by the end of the year, more than 3.2 million Americans are expected to have died from all causes; that's about 400,000 more than last year. COVID-19 has killed more than 350,000 Americans so far. In the Morongo Basin, 1,445 people have been infected and 32 have died (as of January 3).

Managing editor Tami Roleff has another of the top stories for 2020...

Another top story of 2020 includes the election and the San Bernardino County charter. Measure J, sponsored by the board of supervisors to amend the county charter, eked out a win by 1.44 points. Measure K, a citizen's initiative to limit the supervisors' salaries and create a one-term limit on supervisors, was passed overwhelmingly, by a two-to-one margin. And Measure U, to repeal the FP-5 fire fee, failed by 2 points. The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors voted in early December to sue the board's clerk to prevent the implementation of Measure K, claiming that both provisions violate the state's constitution. Gary Daigneault joins us with the top story in Twentynine Palms.

And finally, after more than a decade of planning, Project Phoenix in Twentynine Palms broke ground in January. The ceremony included city, county, military, and National Park Service dignitaries, gold shovels, speeches, and cake. The project will include a community center and gym, visitor's center for Joshua Tree National Park, and in a collaboration between the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, Joshua Tree National Park, and the city, a cultural museum for artifacts collected by Elizabeth Campbell.

<http://z1077fm.com/part-one-of-a-four-part-series-the-top-stories-of-2020/>