



# NEWS



## News Headlines 01/08/2021

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## Hesperia Single-Vehicle Traffic Collision Kills Driver

Staff Writer, 247headline.com

Posted: January 7, 2021



HESPERIA, Ca. – A suspected DUI traffic collision killed a 45-year-old male driver in the City of Hesperia on New Year's Eve.

At around 9:55 p.m. deputies from the Hesperia Station along with rescue personnel from the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department, responded to Caliente and El Centro Roads for the report of a single-vehicle collision. Fire personnel arrived and pronounced the driver deceased at the scene.

Through investigation, authorities were able to determine that the pickup veered into the east shoulder of Caliente Road then overcorrected and hit a small dirt embankment. The collision caused the pickup truck to overturn several times tossing the unrestrained driver from the vehicle.

The collision remains under investigation and any witnesses are asked to contact Deputy D. Whitson from the Hesperia Station.

<https://247headline.com/hesperia-single-vehicle-traffic-collision-kills-driver/>

## One Child Dies from Joshua Tree Fire

Staff Writer, z1077fm.com

Posted: January 8, 2021



One child has died from a house fire in Joshua Tree Thursday morning. Fire crews were called to the 62300 block of Crestview Drive at 11:56 a.m. with a report that two children were trapped inside the home. **County Fire** Assistant Chief Scott Tuttle said the victims, which included two adults who were in the house when the fire broke out, were taken to Hi-Desert Medical Center. From the hospital, helicopters transferred the pediatric patients to other area hospitals for further care, where the seven-year-old boy died. The house was a total loss as fire crews battled the fire for about 90 minutes. Z107.7 reporter Cassidy Taylor was on the scene...

A pillar of black smoke could be seen from Highway 62 as a Joshua Tree home caught fire yesterday. With the entire block filled with emergency crews, two children were rescued from the flames as fire crews battled an attached garage engulfed in flames. The entire house was filled with smoke when frantic family members rushed on scene, desperately searching for their loved ones. Helicopters overhead could be seen traveling to Hi-Desert Medical Center to transfer the pediatric patients for further care. Worried witnesses and neighbors watched crews battle the fire for over an hour, while sharing deep concern for the individuals in the home when the fire broke out. Once the fire was under control, more family members arrived to rescue the family's dog from the backyard. With the garage collapsed and the entire structure filled with thick black soot, the home is a total loss.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

<http://z1077fm.com/local-news/todays-full-newscast/>

## Early Morning Fire in Twentynine Palms Today

Staff Writer, z1077fm.com

Posted: January 7, 2021



Firefighters were called to a blaze in Twentynine Palms early this morning. Crews from Twentynine Palms, Joshua Tree, and the Combat Center were called just after 3 a.m. to the 72900 block of Manana Avenue where they found smoke and flames in an attached garage that had been converted to living quarters. Firefighters confined the flames to the converted garage area and had the fire knocked down in about 20 minutes, but the rest of the home suffered smoke damage.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

<http://z1077fm.com/local-news/todays-full-newscast/>

## Children Rescued from Home Fire Thursday

Staff Writer, z1077fm.com

Posted: January 8, 2021



Firefighters rescued two children who were trapped in a house fire in Joshua Tree Thursday morning. Fire crews were called to the 62300 block of Crestview Drive at 11:56 a.m. **County Fire** Assistant Chief Scott Tuttle said the victims, which included two adults who were in the house when the fire broke out, were taken to Hi-Desert Medical Center. From the hospital, helicopters transferred the pediatric patients to other area hospitals for further care. The house was a total loss as fire crews battled the fire for about 90 minutes. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

<http://z1077fm.com/local-news/todays-full-newscast/>

## Ex-felons on the fire line in California

Staff Writer, [aei.org](http://www.aei.org)

Posted: January 7, 2021



The huge firestorms up and down the West Coast last summer were impossible to miss as they inflicted injuries, deaths, and massive property losses. Another glaringly obvious fact was that our nation's demand for firefighters vastly exceeds its supply. In California in particular, this challenge highlighted how dependent the state is on convicted felons to provide manpower for fighting its increasingly frequent blazes.

Inmate firefighters have been a fact of California life since the World War II era. Until recently, however, prisoners who trained and served as firefighters were ineligible for the same jobs they did behind bars after release because most California counties require firefighters to also have EMT certifications, which are often denied to those with criminal records. Last September, Governor Gavin Newsom signed a bill that would expunge low-level felony convictions for some former inmates, allowing them to take full-time jobs as firefighters.

Thus far, the legislation appears to be working as intended. The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department recently moved forward with a six-month pilot program whereby released inmates in good standing can take jobs beating controlling fires in the Golden State. The program has so far hired nine inmates, with another six currently undergoing background checks. The long-term goal is to develop a new 20-person crew.

This is an unmistakably good step for a number of reasons. First, California's fire seasons will not be getting any easier in the short or long term. The state also faces a chronic firefighter shortage that was exacerbated during the 2020 season when prisoners were released early to help reduce COVID-19 infections. There simply weren't enough firefighters left behind bars to fill these roles, while those on early release from prison with firefighting experience weren't eligible to help out. Moreover, in normal times, states share firefighters, meaning it isn't just California that benefits from loosening restrictions but the entire country. Other states ought to reciprocate by examining their own policies that keep those with criminal records out of emergency services roles, where they might contribute meaningfully.

The transition from prison to society is always a difficult one, and recidivism rates remain high despite best efforts. While employment programs for the formerly incarcerated have had mixed-to-poor results, it remains the case that unemployment doesn't make reentry any easier. With so many occupations pre-emptively closed to those with criminal records, opening these jobs to ex-felons serves both their interests and those whose lives and homes may be threatened by fire in California and beyond.

<https://www.aei.org/workforce/ex-felons-on-the-fire-line-in-california/>

## Needles, CA: Residential structure fire burning at 511 Bazoobuth Street

Staff Writer, ZachNews

Posted: January 8, 2021



Needles, California: Firefighters from **San Bernardino County Fire** Department and Mohave Valley Fire Department are on scene of a residential structure fire that is burning at 511 Bazoobuth Street just west of B Street.

The area of Bazoobuth Street near B Street is closed, and motorists are being asked to avoid this area.

<https://zachnews.net/2021/01/07/breaking-news-needles-ca-residential-structure-fire-burning-at-511-bazoobuth-street/>