



# NEWS



## News Headlines 01/15/2021

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## San Bernardino Co. District Attorney reviewing findings on El Dorado Fire, started by gender reveal party

Rebecca Plevin, Palm Springs Desert Sun

Posted: January 14, 2021 at 10:18PM



The El Dorado Fire burns in the San Bernardino National Forest near Oak Glen, Calif., on Sunday, September 10, 2020. *The San Bernardino County Fire Department.*

The San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office is reviewing investigative reports from the county sheriff's department regarding the El Dorado Fire, which was sparked in September during a gender reveal party held near Yucaipa.

The county DA's office received the completed reports earlier this week, and deputy district attorneys assigned to the case will begin reviewing them, the office said Thursday in a news release. They will also review reports from Cal Fire, as well as other investigative reports and evidence.

"While we know our community wants answers, we have to be diligent and thorough in understanding every aspect of this case so that we can render the appropriate filing decision, which we anticipate issuing no later than March 1, 2021," the DA's office said in a statement.

The El Dorado Fire was sparked Sept. 5 after a family used a pyrotechnic device to reveal the gender of the baby the couple was expecting. A Cal Fire official on Sept. 7 told The Desert Sun that the family had "absolutely been cooperating" with officials.

Over a 23-day period, the fire burned 22,680 acres in the Oak Glen and Yucaipa Ridge areas, and within the San Gorgonio Wilderness Area of the San Bernardino National Forest. According to a Nov. 18 update, the El Dorado Fire charred a total of 22,744 acres. It was expected to be contained by Dec. 31.

Charlie Morton, a 14-year veteran firefighter with the San Bernardino National Forest, died while fighting the blaze. The fire also resulted in 13 injuries.

The fire forced the evacuations of Oak Glen, north Yucaipa, Mountain Home Village, Forest Falls and Angelus Oaks communities. It destroyed five residences and 15 other structures, and damaged four residences.

<https://www.desertsun.com/story/news/2021/01/14/san-bernardino-county-district-attorney-reviewing-reports-el-dorado-fire/4171093001/>

## Redlands firefighter among the first to receive a COVID vaccine

Dina Colunga, Redlands Community News

Posted: January 14, 2021



Joseph Ico receives his COVID-19 vaccine. Ico is a firefighter paramedic for the Redlands Fire Department.  
Photo courtesy of San Bernardino County

People who work in San Bernardino County and who are in Phase 1A's Tier 1 and 2 of the COVID-19 vaccine allocation can now start making appointments.

Tier 1 of Phase 1A is made up of the following sectors: acute care, psychiatric and correctional facilities hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, paramedics, EMT's and dialysis centers. Tier 2 is home health care and in-home support services, community health workers, public health field staff, primary care clinics, rural health centers and urgent care clinics.

Those who work in these fields within the county can make an appointment to get vaccinated at [sbccovid19.com/vaccine](https://sbccovid19.com/vaccine). Six facilities are available for appointments; Arrowhead Family Health Center–McKee, Arrowhead Family Health Center–Westside Clinic, County Civic Building West, Hesperia Health Center, Ontario Health Center and the San Bernardino Health Center.

As of Jan. 12, 28,290 people have been vaccinated in San Bernardino County.

Joseph Ico, a firefighter paramedic for the Redlands Fire Department, said he chose to get vaccinated for his family.

“I have a lot of family members with underlying medical conditions, and I have children at home,” said Ico. “I am exposed to COVID-19 on a daily basis at work, so I want to make sure I'm not bringing it home to my loved ones. The county gave us a lot of information regarding side effects, and I did my own research. Overall, I think this will be more beneficial than anything, and the side effects are minor, but the long term benefits of the vaccine will keep me healthy.”

Kent Meeker, a firefighter paramedic for the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department, said he chose to get vaccinated because he deals with COVID-19 patients almost daily.

“It seems like every day we are being exposed four or five times to people that are waiting on test results or are positive,” he said. “With that kind of exposure, of contracting the virus and then going through what looks like a terrible process of healing didn't seem worth it. The vaccine is a lot easier to do. I have no major concerns with any of the side effects.”

“From the information the county and Troy Pennington at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center gave me, it seems like all the potential side effects are standard and are associated with most vaccines,” continued Meeker. “I didn’t see anything that said this was more dangerous than any other kind. The mRNA vaccine is not a live virus, and it’s not a DNA strand. It was worth coming and getting it done to be safe.”

According to the county, 25,000 doses have gone to hospital workers, approximately 600 to dialysis centers and a little under 900 doses to medical first responders (paramedics and EMTs). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is coordinating the distribution of vaccines to staff at skilled nursing and assisted living facilities through partnerships with Walgreens and CVS.

Doctors who have received the vaccine also shared their experiences.

“I feel great with no side effects,” said Carol Lee, program director for Arrowhead Regional Medical Center’s Department of Emergency Medicine’s residency program. “I found it less painful than the routine flu vaccination I get every year. I’ve spoken to a lot of people about the vaccinations, and I don’t know anyone who has suffered severe side effects or any side effects. Millions of doses have been given worldwide, and the incidence of side effects is extremely low.”

Danny Fernandez, an emergency room physician at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, had a similar experience.

“I feel as fine as I did before,” he said. “This is similar to other vaccines we take and is an easy process. It is not something to be feared.”

Eman Ahmad, a family practice physician who specializes in geriatrics, experienced slight tenderness at the injection site on her arm but otherwise suffered no side effects.

“I’ve never had any adverse reactions from any of the vaccines I’ve received,” she said. “We need to save as many lives as possible,” she said. “If we are able to vaccinate as many people in the community as possible, we’ll have immunity and help decrease the spread of the virus while reducing mortality and morbidity.”

Nidal Rafeedi, assistant director of respiratory care at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, said he feels fortunate to be one of the first vaccinated.

“I feel fantastic,” he said. “I’ve had no effects at all, other than a little soreness like I normally get from a flu shot. I’m sleeping well and have had no fever.”

Rafeedi was diagnosed with leukemia as a child and underwent radiation and chemotherapy. That experience led him to trust medicine, and he urged others to do so as well.

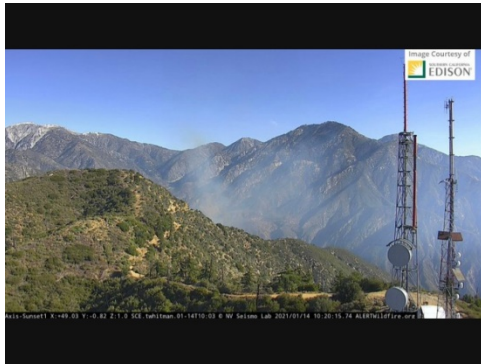
“The vaccine is something that will end the pandemic, so I’m asking the community to trust medicine and to trust science. Let’s end this so that we can celebrate together with a great summer.”

[https://www.redlandscommunitynews.com/news/public\\_safety/redlands-firefighter-among-the-first-to-receive-a-covid-vaccine/article\\_4dab6330-56a8-11eb-8d3f-d75739d85834.html](https://www.redlandscommunitynews.com/news/public_safety/redlands-firefighter-among-the-first-to-receive-a-covid-vaccine/article_4dab6330-56a8-11eb-8d3f-d75739d85834.html)

## Hogsback Fire: Mount Baldy Brush Fire Breaks Out

Paige Austin, Patch Staff

Posted: January 14, 2021 at 12:06PM



Air tankers have been called to help put out a brush fire burning near Mount Baldy Road. (Courtesy of Southern California Edison)

LOS ANGELES, CA — Firefighters are battling a small brush fire near Mount Baldy Road Thursday morning, but by the afternoon crews appeared to be getting the upper hand over the blaze.

A blaze dubbed the Hogsback Fire, burned a half-acre of brush and was been reported near Mount Baldy Road and Barrett Stoddard Truck Trail in the Angeles National Forest just before 9:30 a.m. The blaze is burning uphill amid heavy brush, according to the National Forest Service. Air tankers were en route to help battle the blaze.

The Hogsback Fire was reported on the San Bernardino County side of the border, on the east side of Mount Baldy Road near Tunnel 1, and had blackened about three acres as of late morning, according to Angeles National Forest officials.

No structures were threatened, and no injuries were reported, according to fire officials, who tweeted late Thursday morning: "Firefighters making good progress towards containment."

The fire was burning in "very dry vegetation," with low humidity and gusty winds reported in the area, fire officials said.

Firefighters from Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties were assisting personnel from the U.S. Forest Service in battling the flames, and air tankers were dropping fire retardant in the area.

The blaze broke out as Santa Ana winds return to the Southland, bringing the region a taste of warm winter weather but also raising the risk of wildfires with gusty and dry conditions.

Winds began building Wednesday afternoon in some areas, most notably in the western San Fernando Valley, where gusts of 35 to 45 mph were reported, according to the National Weather Service. A high pressure system was building and advancing into the area, and forecasters said it will bring warm and dry conditions, pushing humidity levels down starting Thursday afternoon, possibly into the 5 to 10% range.

The dry conditions are expected to continue into at least Saturday.

"North to northeast winds will form over Los Angeles and Ventura counties on Thursday and continue through Friday, with dry air descending over the region starting late Thursday afternoon or night," according to the NWS. "Along with persistently dry fuels, this combination of wind and humidity will result in critical fire weather conditions over the valleys and mountains of Los Angeles and Ventura counties Thursday afternoon through Friday afternoon, with a chance of needing to be extended into Saturday. There is also a chance that the coastal areas will need to be added."

A red flag warning of critical fire danger conditions will be in effect from 4 p.m. Thursday to 4 p.m. Friday for the Santa Monica Mountains Recreational Area, Los Angeles County mountains, Angeles National Forest and the Santa Clarita and San Fernando valleys. A separate red flag warning will also be in place during the same hours in inland Orange County and the Santa Ana mountains.

<https://patch.com/california/los-angeles/hogsback-fire-mount-baldy-brush-fire-breaks-out>

## County Burn Permits Go Online

Staff Writer, z1077fm.com

Posted: January 15, 2021



The **San Bernardino County Fire** Protection District is introducing a new way to acquire a burn permit that is completely online. Reporter Joshua King has more details on how to acquire one...

Open burning permits have always been required for residents or farmers seeking to dispose of waste vegetation. Permits will no longer be issued at fire stations or County Fire administrative offices, but rather online at the website [www.sbcfire.org](http://www.sbcfire.org). Once you are on the website, click on the burn status option at the bottom of the page to begin your application for an open burn permit. Permits are free but do come with restrictions on when burning is appropriate and how much a resident can burn at a time, so be sure to call 909-356-3805 before you burn any waste vegetation.

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