News Headlines 02/05 – 02/08/2021

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More than Two Dozen People Sickened in CA Hazmat Incident
Staff Writer, Firehouse News
Posted: February 5, 2021

Firefighters were unable to determine what caused breathing issues among employees at an Ontario dental products company, sending nine people to the hospital.

California fire officials are trying to determine the cause of a hazardous materials incident at a commercial building that sent nine people to the hospital and sickened nearly 30 others Thursday.

The incident happened at around 8 a.m. after an individual began experiencing chest pains at Philips North America, a dental products company in Ontario, The Press-Enterprise reports. Hazmat units and 10 ambulances from the Ontario and San Bernardino County fire departments were called in after other employees began feeling sick and experiencing breathing problems.

Crews began trying to determine what was causing workers to become ill, as well as trying to find the source of the irritant. Monitoring equipment registered some "low-level hits" in the facility, but firefighters couldn't isolate the source of the problem, Ontario Battalion Chief Scot Roeber told The Press-Enterprise.

A total of 28 workers reported experiencing breathing problems, and nine people were taken to area hospitals with respiratory irritation, according to the Ontario Fire Department. None of the injuries were considered life-threatening.

The building eventually was ventilated, and the company determined the air inside was free of any irritants, The Press-Enterprise added.

Crews extinguish fire in building at defunct water park
Carl Baker, Redlands Community News
Posted: February 6, 2021

Redlands firefighters responded to a commercial structure fire Friday afternoon, Feb. 5, at the defunct Splash Kingdom water park, 1101 California St. No injuries were reported.

Upon arrival shortly before 2 p.m., crews found a fire in a small outside storage area adjacent to the back wall of the main building. Firefighters contained the fire to the storage area, preventing it from spreading to the main building.

Loss was estimated at about $5,000. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

In addition to 12 firefighters from Redlands, firefighters from Loma Linda and San Bernardino County fire departments responded. The overall incident lasted approximately one hour.

Sheriff's Aviation crew conducts hoist rescue of man and girl in Jurupa Hills area of Fontana
Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News
Posted: February 6, 2021

The Sheriff's Aviation crew conducted a hoist rescue of a man and young girl in the Jurupa Hills area of Fontana, according to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

On Feb. 5 at about 4:30 p.m, Jaime Arellano, a 48-year-old Fontana resident, and his 10-year-old niece were hiking when they slid approximately 50 feet down the trail and became separated.

Ground crews could not get to them due to the steep terrain. San Bernardino County Fire requested assistance with a hoist rescue for both persons.

Sheriff's Helicopter 40king1 and 40king5 responded to the location. The crew lowered Air Medic R. Katzer down to Jaime first. He was able to place Jaime in a rescue harness and he was hoisted up to the helicopter. He was flown to awaiting medics for further evaluation for any potential injuries.

The crew returned to the scene to conduct the second hoist. Due to the location the 10-year-old was in, the crew had to pick up the medic and “long line” him over to her. While on the rescue hook, Katzer placed the juvenile into a rescue harness and they were both hoisted to the helicopter simultaneously. The juvenile was flown to awaiting medics as well and was evaluated for any potential injuries.

A woman suffered moderate injuries in a roll-over crash early this morning in Wonder Valley. According to County Fire Battalion Chief Donnie Viloria, fire crews were called to the crash at 6 a.m. at Amboy Road and Bell King Lane where they found the woman inside the car. Crews had to use the Jaws of Life to extricate her, and she was flown by Mercy Air to Desert Hospital in Palm Springs.

http://z1077fm.com/2021/02/08/
San Bernardino County Fire Donates Engine and Ambulance to Crafton Hills College
Staff Writer, High Desert Daily News
Posted: February 7, 2021

(Victor Valley)—San Bernardino County Fire recently donated a Type III Brush Engine & Ambulance to Crafton Hills College (CHC). The donated apparatus previously ran thousands of emergencies and now will serve in an educational role at the college.

The 1999 International / Pierce “Fire Hawk” Type III Engine has been donated to CHC Fire Academy to help train future firefighters. Prior to today’s donation, CHC did not have a wildland apparatus in their fleet. With California’s fire season now year around, a significant training emphasis is placed on wildland firefighting. The apparatus previously served the San Bernardino Area for more than 20 years. The four-wheel drive engine carries 500 gallons of water, pumps 500 gallons per minute and can “pump and roll” which is crucial for wildland firefighting. Besides the engine, it comes with a full wildland compliment of gear consistent with industry standards. The apparatus will allow cadets to learn on wild land specialized apparatus and their operations. “On behalf of our long running program as well as the Crafton Hills College and the San Bernardino Community College District, I would like to thank the San Bernardino County Fire Department for this great donation and all of the support that they have provided us throughout the years,” said Alder. “We truly value our great working relationship and the positive impact it has on our communities.”

Also donated is a 2005 Ford / MedTec Ambulance. The donation will assist the college’s emergency medical technician (EMT) and Paramedic program. The ambulance will allow students to learn to treat patients inside the ambulance, patient loading and gurney operations. “Our EMT and Paramedic students will be able to practice hands-on skills and assessments in the back of this ambulance and work through the aspects of moving and transporting patients while continuing patient care. We are greatly appreciative of this donation from the San Bernardino County Fire Department,” according to Amanda Ward, CHC Paramedic Program Director. “With high fidelity simulation being a key component to our educational models, the addition of a fully functional ambulance will aid to create the most realistic simulations possible”

The two new donations will join three previous donations from San Bernardino County Fire. Hundreds of San Bernardino County Fire personnel both past and present have trained at Crafton Hills College. Crafton and other local colleges are pivotal in training future firefighters, EMTs and Paramedics. These colleges are an integral part of San Bernardino County’s “Cradle to Career” roadmap. The roadmap depicts a collaborative approach that engages families, educators, government, business, labor, faith and community-based organizations as pillars of support for students. The roadmap is based on students achieving specific academic and career readiness milestones at each age and grade level.