



NEWS



News Headlines 02/25/2021

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Wind-Whipped Fire Spreads from Burn Barrel to Three Homes

Oscar Flores and Christine Kim, NBC Los Angeles

Posted: February 25, 2021 at 7:02AM



Firefighters were busy Thursday morning in San Bernardino County as gusty winds fueled several spot fires in a Bloomington neighborhood. Several homes were damaged. Christine Kim reports Feb. 25, 2021.

Residents, some of whom were sleeping, were alerted to the fire by an officer who banged on windows and doors in the Bloomington community.

A fire in a burn barrel spread to at least three homes early Thursday when it was fanned by strong overnight winds in the San Bernardino County community of Bloomington.

Firefighters responded to the 10700 block of Tamarind Avenue for a report of a backyard on fire. Residents called to report a fire had spread to a nearby home, said the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

All of the sudden, my stepdad got woken up by a loud banging on the door. When he opened it, the police officer was yelling, 'Everybody needs to get out. Grab your pets, grab your children, your family. There's a fire happening.'

-Resident Rovaun De Anda

Residents said a police officer banged on windows and doors to alert residents as flames reached doorsteps.

"All of the sudden, my step-dad got woken up by a loud banging on the door. When he opened it, the police officer was yelling," said resident Rovaun De Anda. "Everybody needs to get out. Grab your pets, grab your children, your family. There's a fire happening. Get out as quick as you can.'

"Thankfully, the firefighters did their job. They did an amazing job."

Strong winds, with gusts of up to 50 mph, fueled the fire. It spread to two other homes and burned approximately two acres of brush before crews knocked the blaze down within 90 minutes, the fire department said.

Firefighters managed to keep the fire from spreading to more residences and focused on mop-up work to ensure the fire didn't cross containment lines.

More than 40 firefighters battled the blaze at the height of the fire.

The Red Cross was called to help displaced residents.

The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department said that investigators were able to track the cause and origin of the fire to a nearby burn barrel where a non-permitted fire was left unattended. Winds sent embers to brush and homes.

No injuries were reported.

<https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/homes-damaged-in-wind-driven-fire-in-san-bernardino-county/2535583/>

Training on Ice Rescue

Staff Writer, Mountain News

Posted: February 24, 2021 at 4:43PM



San Bernardino County is home to many lakes and ponds that ice up in Winter.

The **San Bernardino County Fire**'s Mountain Division firefighters have been training on ice rescue operations in Lake Arrowhead. Taking advantage of recent cold weather and ice conditions, firefighters completed simulated ice rescues in Lady Bug Pond at SkyPark, stated Battalion Chief Mike McClintock in a digital release.

San Bernardino County is home to many lakes, ponds and other bodies of water that are susceptible to freezing in the winter months. Urban Search & Rescue (USAR) trained personnel from Fire Station 91 coordinated the training for area firefighters using special suits and equipment crews trained on victim rescue, removal and self-survival techniques.

One of the most prevalent dangers to civilians and firefighters alike is the strength and stability of the ice. Many times, civilians assume that the ice is strong enough for them to walk on or use for recreational purposes.

Nationwide thin ice is responsible for many fatalities each year. Besides the risk of drowning, victims are also at risk of hypothermia. Hypothermia, which is a decrease in body temperature, kills people in cold water by reducing their ability to swim or stay afloat. A person who has fallen through the ice can eventually die of cardiac arrest if he or she is not rescued or rewarmed.

<https://mountain-news.com/news/40287/training-on-ice-rescue/>

At Least 2 Homes Destroyed When Wind-Whipped Fire Rips Through Bloomington Neighborhood

Staff Writer, CBSLA

Posted: February 25, 2021 at 8:30AM



The three-alarm fire was reported at 12:23 a.m. in the area of Tamarind and Santa Ana avenues.

FONTANA (CBSLA) – A fire broke out early Thursday morning amid powerful winds in the San Bernardino County community of Bloomington, destroying at least two homes.

According to the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department, crews arrived on scene to find one home with heavy flames, and the fire spreading towards nearby brush and homes.

Two homes have been destroyed and a third is heavily damaged, the fire department said.

The fire is believed to have been started by someone who was burning items in a barrel, which is an unpermitted burn, a SBCFD spokesperson said.

It took 40 firefighters about 90 minutes to bring the blaze under control. At least two acres of vegetation burned.

Footage from the scene showed a man hosing down RV's in an effort to save a property.

Crews contended with wind gusts of up to 50 miles per hour, the fire department said. As of 4:45 a.m., they remained on scene mopping up and looking for hot spots.

There were no injuries. The cause is under investigation.

<https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2021/02/25/at-least-2-homes-destroyed-when-wind-whipped-fire-rips-through-bloomington-neighborhood/>