News Headlines 02/27 – 03/01/2021

- 1 injured, more than a dozen cows killed after cattle truck crashes on I-15 in Fontana
- Truck and trailer involved in collision on Interstate 15 in Fontana, injuring one person and killing several cows
- Scottish Rite Freemasonry Goes Up in Flames | SAN BERNARDINO, CA 2.27.21
- Early morning fire damages Scottish Rite of Freemasonry building in San Bernardino
- TWENTYNINE PALMS HOUSE DESTROYED BY EARLY MORNING FIRE
- As Disaster Response Changes, Data Leads the Way
A cattle truck carrying at least a dozen cows and a horse crashed Saturday evening along the 15 Freeway in Fontana, killing some animals and restricting traffic flow on the northbound lanes.

The crash occurred just before 6:30 p.m. on the northbound 15 Freeway near the 210 Freeway, resulting in a vehicle fire that was quickly put out and one person sustaining a minor injury, the San Bernardino County Fire Department reported.

Crews from the Rancho Cucamonga Fire Department and a veterinarian were called to the scene to help sedate and remove the animals trapped in the trailer, officials said.

Just after 8 p.m., San Bernardino County Fire reported that the horse and seven head of cattle survived the crash and were being treated for various injuries. The remaining animals were pronounced dead at the scene.

The Fire Department said the case has been turned over to the California Highway Patrol.

No further details were immediately available.

Truck and trailer involved in collision on Interstate 15 in Fontana, injuring one person and killing several cows

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News
Posted: February 28, 2021

A truck and trailer crashed on the northbound Interstate 15 Freeway in Fontana on Feb. 27, injuring one person and killing several cows.

Contributed photo by San Bernardino County Fire Department.

A truck and trailer crashed on the northbound Interstate 15 Freeway in Fontana on Feb. 27, injuring one person and killing several cows, according to the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

The trailer was loaded with two dozen head of cattle and one horse, the Fire Department said on Twitter. A fire erupted at the scene but was extinguished by firefighters. The injury to the person was minor.

The Ranch Cucamonga Fire Department and a veterinarian were on scene assisting with the sedation and extrication of animals, the Fire Department said.

The horse and seven head of cattle were treated for various injuries, but the remaining animals died.

SAN BERNARDINO- On Saturday, February 27, at 1:02 AM, San Bernardino County Fire was dispatched to reports of a commercial structure fire at the San Bernardino Scottish Rite of Freemasonry.

On arrival, fire crews located heavy fire through the roof of the building. With the fire spreading to the second level of the roof, a second alarm was requested. The fire was knocked down around 2 AM.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

No injuries were reported.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9azRpBYmJOg
A fire broke out inside the San Bernardino Scottish Rite of Freemasonry building early Saturday, damaging the structure that is a familiar sight for commuters driving along Interstate 215.

Shortly before 1:30 a.m. Saturday, San Bernardino County Fire tweeted a 2-alarm fire with flames through the building’s roof.

County Fire identified the building as the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry about 20 minutes later, adding that crews continued an offensive interior attack of the structure at 4400 N. Varsity Avenue.

The Scottish Rite building is located about 1 ½ miles from the California State University, San Bernardino campus. The building is visible from I-215.

County Fire said later Saturday morning that crews responded after receiving multiple calls of a structure fire from motorists on the freeway who reported smoke coming from the roof.

Flames burn through the roof of the San Bernardino Scottish Rite of Freemasonry building early Saturday morning, Feb. 27, 2021, in San Bernardino.

Firefighters arrived just after 1 a.m. and attacked the blaze aggressively from both inside the building and on the roof, County Fire said in a statement. They knocked down the fire in just over an hour.

No one occupied the building at the time of the fire, according to the department. Officials were still compiling damage reports as of 7 a.m. The cause is under investigation through County Fire's Office of the Fire Marshal.

Nine engines, three truck companies, two chief officers and an investigator totaling 42 personnel were assigned to the blaze. The Rialto Fire Department assisted with an engine company. No injuries were reported.

A groundbreaking on the 50-year-old building occurred in January 1970. The first class was held in October of that year, according to information on the website for the San Bernardino William and Beverly Rainbolt RiteCare Childhood Language Center, a nonprofit that operates under the California Scottish Rite Foundation.
In 1982, the language center began providing speech, language, and literacy therapy to children from 3 to 12 years of age. The center has been providing services via Tele-Therapy amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

TWENTYNINE PALMS HOUSE DESTROYED BY EARLY MORNING FIRE
Staff Writer, z1077fm.com
Posted: March 1, 2021

A Twentynine Palms home was destroyed by a fire early Sunday morning, and a neighboring structure also suffered damage.

County Fire Battalion Chief Bob Evans said firefighters were called to the blaze in the 6400 block of Cholla Avenue at 12:48 a.m. where they found a single-family house well involved with fire. Twentynine Palms firefighters began a defensive attack while waiting for crews from the Combat Center, Joshua Tree, and Yucca Valley.

Neighbors reported hearing an explosion. Meanwhile, a false alarm call 10 minutes later about a fire in the 6600 block of National Park Drive in Twentynine Palms was an issue, as one crew had to be pulled off the fire and sent to check out the call.

Once crews were all on scene of the Cholla Avenue fire, firefighters transitioned to an interior attack of the fire. Strong winds made fighting the fire challenging, and flames spread to the attic of a neighboring house. No one was at home in the original house; the occupant of the neighboring house was able to get out safely with the help of the Sheriff’s Department.

The fire was knocked down in about 30 minutes, but it took more than two hours to mop up the fire.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

http://z1077fm.com/twentynine-palms-house-destroyed-by-early-morning-fire/
As disasters become more frequent and more intense, technology can be a tool to coordinate response. California's wildfires, as seen here in the San Bernardino mountains in Sept., 2020, are an example of extreme weather events that prompt protracted disaster responses. (Photo courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire Department)

The environments in which disasters occur are changing. Populations are denser. Climates are more extreme. And technology is burgeoning into new realms. These changes have ushered in a new era of disaster response.

That was the focus of an online panel Friday, convening disaster response, health and technology experts using big data to solve public health emergencies. “How do we ensure, in this work that we’re doing, that no gets left behind?” asked Andrew Schroeder, Direct Relief’s Vice President of Research and Analysis, who moderated the panel.

“The way we approach disasters is going through a cultural shift,” said Leremy Colf, the Director of Disaster Science at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Disaster response is no longer just about what happens in the immediate aftermath of an emergency, according to Colf, but rather planning for one before it emerges.

The webinar comes as Direct Relief, in partnership with Harvard University, launches CrisisReady, a collaborative effort to coordinate streams of data from public and private actors, including international agencies such as the World Health Organization and technology platforms like Google, to inform policy decisions before, during, and after a disaster.

“Covid-19 marks a watershed moment when suddenly the world became aware that these data streams have enormous power,” said Caroline Buckee, the Associate Director of the Center for Communicable Disease Dynamics at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and co-founder of CrisisReady.

Last year, Buckee worked alongside a team of researchers from Direct Relief and Harvard University to create the Covid-19 Mobility Dashboard Network, which uses anonymized population data to inform policies around social distancing, travel restrictions, and reopening timelines.

While CrisisReady works to aggregate flows of information, the emphasis is on application. “It’s not just data in a vacuum that will help address these problems,” said Alexander Diaz, the Head of Crisis Response and Humanitarian Aid at Google.org. Maps can display information about who in a community is most vulnerable to disaster, helping policy makers not only craft a more targeted response, but also promote resiliency before a crisis strikes.

For example, said Colf, emergency medical facilities often see a surge in patients after hurricanes, but preventative measures can help reduce disaster-related medical needs. “A lot of people show up at the emergency departments during disasters because there is a lack of planning.”
In the wake of a hurricane, one of the most common medical issues are asthma-induced complications, Colf has found. “A lot of the problems that we are encountering are not necessarily trauma,” he said. Based on these diagnostic trends, policy makers can determine which interventions would be most effective before a disaster, such as targeted messaging to community members or bolstering support for hospitals in medically underserved areas. “If we can target interventions to earlier times we can prevent that surge on the hospital,” said Colf.

Direct Relief will continue to share insights as CrisisReady aggregates new data flows and produces tools to inform both preventative and real-time humanitarian response efforts.

Google.org provided a $1 million grant to support CrisisReady’s “California Wildfire Project,” an effort to locate medically vulnerable populations to inform a more targeted public health response during the 2020 wildfire season.