



NEWS



News Headlines 05/05/2021

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RV catches fire, spreads to nearby brush in Cajon Pass, SigAlert on northbound I-15

Jose Quintero, Victorville Daily Press

Posted: May 4, 2021 at 1:07PM



Caltrans District 8 @Caltrans8 · May 4, 2021



Replying to @Caltrans8

Update: Lead agency's @SanBernardinoNF, @CALFIREBDU and @SBCOUNTYFIRE. For fire information, please follow these pages. We will post their alerts accordingly. Lanes #4, #5 and #6 still blocked going NB I-15 north of Kenwood. #Caltrans8



A stretch of three northbound Interstate 15 lanes was closed Tuesday afternoon after a vehicle fire quickly spread to nearby brush in the Cajon Pass.

The blaze — the Devore Fire , quickly spread to 20 acres, as of 1:30 p.m., according to the San Bernardino National Forest Service.

The blaze began after an RV caught fire on I-15 at approximately 12:09 p.m., according to California Highway Patrol traffic logs.

Within five minutes, the fire spread to a nearby brush.

The agency said the blaze is in the "grass and heavy brush" near the freeway.

CalTrans traffic logs showed a heavy backup near the I-15 and 215 split in Devore for several hours as the lanes were shut down. As of 4:25 p.m., the lanes were still closed.

Fire officials said that the blaze threatened structures in the Devore Heights, Hall Ranch and Matthew Ranch areas.

The forest service was in unified command with the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department and CalFire.

<https://www.vvdailynews.com/story/news/2021/05/04/rv-catches-fire-spreads-nearby-brush-cajon-pass-tuesday-afternoon/4944697001/>

Devore Fire: Traffic delayed after vehicle sparks 40-acre brush fire along Cajon Pass; forward progress stopped

Erika Martin, KTLA

Posted: May 4, 2021 at 2:00PM



The Devore Fire burns along the Cajon Pass on Interstate 15 on May 4, 2021, in a photo released by Caltrans.

Motorists were urged to avoid Interstate 15 in the Cajon Pass after a recreational vehicle fire spread to brush along the freeway and moved toward structures Tuesday afternoon, officials said.

Dubbed the Devore Fire, the flames broke out shortly after noon and had spread to 40 acres by 6 p.m. The blaze was 50% contained as of 9 p.m., according to San Bernardino National Forest officials.

The fire had earlier been spreading at a moderate rate and threatening structures in the Devore Heights, Hall Ranch and Mathews Ranch neighborhoods. But its forward progress was stopped by 5:30 p.m., firefighters said.

The No. 5 and 6 lanes of northbound Interstate 15 remained blocked north of Kenwood Avenue for cleanup and repair until further notice.

A bit further down I-15, at Duncan Canyon Road in Fontana, a big rig blaze unrelated to the Devore Fire caused a fire to spread about 1.5 acres before forward progress was halted. As of 8 p.m., southbound lanes No. 3 and 4 were reopened after cleanup.

Traffic was backed up on the interstate and motorists were urged to use caution and slow down, or if possible, use an alternate route. If traveling south through Fontana, drivers were advised to use the 215 Freeway as a detour.

One firefighter suffered a minor injury while battling the Devore Fire, officials said. No further details on the circumstances were available.

The blazes broke out as a high-pressure weather system moves across Southern California, dialing up the heat. Temperatures were expected to hit 90 degrees in the Inland Empire and near 100 degrees in the Coachella Valley, according to the National Weather Service.

Earlier Tuesday, **San Bernardino County fire** officials had begun a prescribed burn operation south of Hesperia near Lake Silverwood. But the plans were scrapped for the rest of the day after the Devore Fire broke out.

Smoke from both the controlled burn and Devore Fire was expected to impact Oak Hills and eastern Hesperia, firefighters said.

<https://ktla.com/news/local-news/devore-fire-structures-threatened-traffic-delayed-after-vehicle-sparks-20-acre-brush-fire-along-cajon-pass/>

Crews stop growth of brush fire in Cajon Pass

Brian Rokos and Eric Licas, Press Enterprise

Posted: May 4, 2021 at 2:05PM



An airplane drops fire retardant ahead of the flames of the Devore fire in the Cajon Pass on May 4, 2021. (Courtesy of Caltrans)

Firefighters halted the growth of a blaze along the Cajon Pass that put some homes in jeopardy as it scorched 40 acres of brush Tuesday, May 4.

The fire had spread from a truck and RV that were consumed by flames.

The fire threatened structures in the Devore Heights, Hall Ranch and Matthew Ranch areas, the San Bernardino National Forest said at about 1:30 p.m. No evacuations were announced, and there was no remaining danger to nearby buildings as of 6 p.m., Forest Service spokesman Zach Behrens said. One firefighter sustained minor injuries before crews managed to gain the upper hand on the blaze.

Tuesday afternoon, the California Highway Patrol received a report of a recreational vehicle on fire on the right shoulder of the 15 Freeway between Kenwood Drive and Cleghorn Road. The flames spread to the brush a few minutes later. A CHP officer later requested tow trucks for a “melted RV and an almost melted Ford Ranger,” according to the CHP log.

Firefighters extinguished the flames in the RV, and crews were brought in to remove the debris. But the air attack on the fire had to be put on hold after someone flew a drone into the area, the Forest Service said.

Initially, the three right northbound lanes of the freeway were closed for the firefighting operation. A partial closure remained in effect as of 9 p.m., and was expected to last several hours longer, Caltrans officials said.

Crews secured about 50 percent of the fire’s perimeter as of 9 p.m. and were expected to remain in the area through the evening, Forest Service officials said. Teams from Cal Fire San Bernardino Unit and **San Bernardino County Fire** Department were assisting the Forest Service.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2021/05/04/brush-fire-in-cajon-pass-threatening-neighborhoods/>

More than 40 units significantly damaged in Upland apartment fire, residents displaced

Quinn Wilson, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: May 4, 2021 at 9:41AM



More than 40 apartment units at an Upland apartment complex were significantly damaged in a large fire on Tuesday, May 4, the San Bernardino County Fire Department said. (Courtesy of the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**)

More than 40 apartment units at an Upland apartment complex were significantly damaged in a large fire on Tuesday, May 4, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** said.

The Fire Department responded to the blaze at about 2:45 p.m. in the 700 block of West 7th Street. The origin of the fire was in a communal attic space that ultimately spread throughout the horseshoe-shaped apartment complex, according to Battalion Chief Mike McClintock with the Fire Department.

Fire crews initially got inside of the building to evacuate residents and get an offensive attack on the fire, McClintock said. However, the apartment building's roof collapsed, forcing firefighters to take a defensive attack on the fire.

A total of 15 fire engines responded along with three ladder trucks and the fire was knocked down after about 90 minutes, McClintock said. No surrounding structures or trees were impacted by the fire.

One firefighter was transported to the hospital with a heat-related illness, McClintock said. The firefighter was reported to be recovering as of Tuesday evening.

In total, 54 units were impacted by smoke, water or fire damage, or lost electricity from the incident, McClintock said.

The American Red Cross was on scene to assist displaced residents with temporary housing and food needs.

The fire's cause is still under investigation, however, McClintock said the fire's origin "doesn't appear to be malicious."

Fire crews remained on scene into the night.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2021/05/04/more-than-40-units-significantly-damaged-in-upland-apartment-fire-residents-displaced/>

Fire Crews Extinguish 3-Alarm Fire at Upland Apartment Complex, 51 Units Damaged

Staff Writer, CBSLA

Posted: May 4, 2021 at 10:15PM



UPLAND (CBSLA) — Dozens of families were displaced after a fire ripped through an apartment building in Upland Tuesday afternoon.

According to the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department, the blaze started at about 2:45 p.m. in the shared attic space of a two-story apartment building in the 900 block of West 7th Street.

Firefighters said the large attic space combined with local winds to create conditions for the fire to spread.

“It really pushed it really quick through there,” Mike McClintock, a spokesperson for the fire department, said. “So, a lot of damage.”

McClintock said 51 units had suffered some sort of damage — smoke, water or fire damage directly.

The department said one firefighter was taken to a local hospital with a heat-related injury, and an unknown number of pets died in the blaze.

“Awful thing is that we did lose some animals in the building that their families were at work and they weren’t able to get them out,” Perez said.

Others lost everything, including Miguel Hernandez and Celine Mason.

“We barely moved into this place two days ago, and now we’re gonna have to find a new home again,” Hernandez said.

“We just got settled in basically last night and now we have to do it all over again,” Mason said.

The Red Cross initially set up a temporary evacuation point at Citrus Elementary School. However, that closed Wednesday morning and was transitioned to a virtual evacuation point. Anyone needing help was told to call the Red Cross at 571-595-7771.

The Red Cross and local schools were helping those displaced find shelter.

<https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2021/05/04/upland-apartment-complex-fire/>

Three-Alarm Fire Damages 51 Units at Upland (CA) Apartment Complex, Firefighter Hospitalized

Staff Writer, Fire Engineering

Posted: May 5, 2021



According to a report from CBS2, dozens of families were displaced after a fire tore through their Upland apartment building complex in the 900 block of West 7th Street Tuesday afternoon.

The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department (SBCFD) said the fire began at about 2:45 p.m. in the shared attic space of a two-story apartment building.

SBCFD firefighters said the large attic space combined with local winds helped spread the flames.

SBCFD Spokesman Mike McClintock said 51 units suffered either smoke, water, or fire damage.

The SBCFD said one firefighter was hospitalized with a heat-related injury, and an unknown number of pets died in the incident.

<https://www.fireengineering.com/firefighting/three-alarm-damages-51-units-at-upland-ca-apartment-complex-firefighter-hospitalized/#gref>