



NEWS



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Two persons are injured when small plane crashes near Lake Arrowhead

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: May 17, 2021



This small plane crashed near Lake Arrowhead on May 15. (Contributed photo by San Bernardino County Fire Department)

Two persons were injured when a small plane crashed near Lake Arrowhead on May 15, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

Fire crews were dispatched to the area of Little Bear Creek Road and Torrey Road in Cedar Glen after receiving multiple 911 calls from area residents.

Crews arrived in the area with fire engines, ambulances and an all-terrain vehicle and found the two persons still inside the plane, which came to rest in tall brush between two access roads.

Due to the thick brush, crews had to cut a path to access the plane. Once they made access, firefighter-paramedics worked on patient care and extrication and mitigated an active fuel leak. United States Forest Service and fire crews simultaneously worked on cutting thick brush to assist in the evacuation of the injured parties.

Once extricated, the patients were loaded in awaiting ambulances to meet with air ambulances for transport to area trauma centers. In total, it took one hour to extricate and extract the two victims.

About 15-20 gallons of fuel leaked into the soil. A hazardous material specialist responded to assist with clean up and hazard mitigation.

The scene was turned over to local enforcement for the investigation portion of the incident, said Mike McClintock, a Fire Department public information officer.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland_empire_news/two-persons-are-injured-when-small-plane-crashes-near-lake-arrowhead/article_d34dfc4a-b75c-11eb-8963-93ca3fbecf78.html

Two Injured in Plane Crash Near Lake Arrowhead

Malia Dietz, Mountain Reporter

Posted: May 17, 2021



Saturday afternoon **San Bernardino County Fire** crews were dispatched to a reported plane crash in the area of Little Bear Creek Rd and Torrey Rd in Cedar Glen. Multiple residents visualized a plane crash near their homes and called 911.

Crews arrived in the area with Fire Engines, Ambulances and an all-terrain vehicle to make access to the plane crash. Utilizing the all-terrain response vehicle for access, firefighters found a small plane down with two persons still inside the plane. The plane came to rest in tall brush between two access roads.

Due to the thick brush crews had to cut a path to access the plane. Once they made access, firefighter-paramedics worked on patient care, extrication and mitigated an active fuel leak. United States Forest Service and fire crews simultaneously worked on cutting thick brush to assisting in the evacuation of the injured parties.

Once extricated, the patients were loaded in awaiting #SBCoFD ambulances to rendezvous with air ambulances for transport to area trauma centers. In total it took one hour to extricate and extract the two victims. Approximately 15-20 gallons of fuel leaked in to the soil. A #SBCoFD Hazardous Material Specialist responded to assist with clean up and hazard mitigation.

San Bernardino County Fire responded with three engines, two ambulances, an all-terrain vehicle, Battalion Chief and a Haz-Mat specialist. Both the USFS & CAL-FIRE personnel also responded due to the potential threat of fire. The scene was turned over to local enforcement for the investigation portion of the incident.

Incident – Plane Crash

Date / Time – 5/15/2021 3:02pm

Location – Area of Little Bear Creek rd & Torrey Rd, Cedar Glen

Contact – MMcClintock@sbcfire.org

<http://mountainreporter.com/two-injured-in-plane-crash-near-lake-arrowhead/>

Small Plane Crash Near Lake Arrowhead in Cedar Glen

JM Johnson, California Injury Accident Lawyer

Posted: May 18, 2021



CEDAR GLEN, CA (May 17, 2021) – Two were hospitalized after a plane crash near Lake Arrowhead in Cedar Glen.

According to the Fontana Herald News and KTLA News, the accident occurred on Saturday afternoon. Officers reported the incident on May 15 at around 3:15 p.m.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department said a small plane crashed for an unknown reason near Lake Arrowhead. It happened in the area of Little Bear Creek Road and Torrey Road in Cedar Glen.

Small Plane Crashes on Saturday

Officials said the single-engine Cessna 210 was flying from Chino to Big Bear City when it went down. A pilot and a passenger were riding the plane at the time.

Firefighters along with the paramedics arrived at the scene and then extricated both parties from the wreckage. The Cessna ended up in a tall brush between two access roads as a result of the accident.

Air ambulances soon took the patients to a hospital for treatment of unspecified injuries. The report did not release the names of the wounded parties and their condition at this time.

Meanwhile, the cause of the Cedar Glen plane crash is still under investigation.

<https://californiainjuryaccidentlawyer.com/small-plane-crash-near-lake-arrowhead-in-cedar-glen/>

A warm welcome home: Deputy Dustin Whitson released from Loma Linda after March shooting in Hesperia

Rene Ray De La Cruz, Victorville Daily Press

Posted: May 17, 2021 at 4:58PM



A split-second decision by a San Bernardino Sheriff's Department helicopter team helped save the life of Dustin Whitson, the deputy shot in March as he investigated a suspicious vehicle in the Mojave Plaza parking lot in Hesperia.

Sheriff John McMahon revealed the life-saving moment during a recent interview with Lolita Harper, the executive director of the Sheriff's Employees' Benefit Association.

SEBA posted the interview to its YouTube channel on May 11 — one day before doctors discharged Whitson from Loma Linda University Medical Center.

"Originally, they were told to wait for another helicopter so they could intubate Dustin while they were flying," McMahon said. "They made the decision to go, and if they wouldn't have made that decision, he wouldn't have survived."

In addition to the helicopter team's efforts, McMahon said aid rendered by a good Samaritan and deputies on the ground, as well as the work of dispatchers and the staff at Loma Linda helped keep Whitson alive.

'Welcome Home'

After being released from the hospital Wednesday, May 12, 2021, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Deputy Dustin Whitson is greeted by family, friends and colleagues at the sheriff's station in Hesperia.

Friends, family and colleagues welcomed Whitson home, so to speak, on Wednesday during an outdoor reception at the Hesperia Sheriff's Station.

Photos released by SEBA showed Whitson shaking hands with and hugging fellow officers as a sheriff's helicopter flew overhead. Nearby, a San Bernardino County Fire engine displayed a banner that read, "Welcome Home Dustin."

Sheriff's spokesperson Cindy Bachman said Thursday that Whitson will continue his recovery at his home, adding that "he has not been given a return to work date as he is still in recovery mode."

Whitson's career with the sheriff's department began in 2007 when he worked as a custody assistant and, later, as a custody specialist at jail facilities. He worked at the Victorville Sheriff's Station as a service specialist before becoming a deputy in 2015, the Daily Press previously reported.

Officer down

After being released from the hospital Wednesday, Deputy Dustin Whitson, center, is welcomed "home" by his family, friends and colleagues at the Hesperia Sheriff's Station.

On March 23, Robert Elvis Sparks, a former Patton State Hospital patient, was asked to leave Bear Valley RV and Self Storage, McMahon said after the shooting.

Sparks later returned and allegedly tried to reenter the secure portion of the property, which prompted an employee to call 911.

Sparks then left in a Ford SUV, moving to the nearby Mojave Plaza shopping center situated south of Victor Valley College. Whitson responded to the call at about 12:38 p.m.

There, authorities said Whitson located Sparks as he sat in the passenger seat of the Ford, which was parked near an AutoZone.

After a brief conversation, "for some reason, Sparks shot Whitson," McMahon said. The deputy fell to the ground, wounded and unconscious.

Sparks allegedly took Whitson's firearm, got back in the Ford and fled east on Bear Valley Road toward Apple Valley.

Sparks apprehended

After the shooting, a description of the Ford was broadcast over sheriff's radios. An off-duty deputy spotted the vehicle and followed it east on Bear Valley Road, then south onto Apple Valley Road.

Deputies from the Apple Valley Sheriff's Station joined the pursuit, following the Ford as the roadway turned from pavement to dirt.

Sparks then stopped the vehicle and fired multiple rounds at the deputies, according to sheriff's officials. He resumed driving until the Ford became disabled, McMahon said.

After Sparks exited his vehicle, he again fired at the deputies and walked toward an occupied residence before shooting a third time and, moments later, at a sheriff's helicopter, according to McMahon.

Deputies on the ground and one in the air returned fire, hitting Sparks.

None of the deputies were injured during the shootout. They detained Sparks and found two firearms — Whitson's and the one Sparks allegedly used to shoot the deputy. He was later taken to a hospital.

As of Thursday, Sparks was being held at West Valley Detention Center in Rancho Cucamonga, according to Bachman, who said he didn't appear to be housed in the medical unit.

Court records show that prosecutors charged Sparks with attempted murder of a peace officer on March 25. He pleaded not guilty on April 30. A pre-preliminary hearing is scheduled for May 24 in Victorville.

In October 2020, Sparks was released from Patton State Hospital near Highland after a four-year stay. He moved into a board and care facility in San Bernardino, where he reportedly went "AWOL" around March 5, according to McMahon.

Sparks was reported missing, and a felony warrant was issued for his arrest. He was later found living at the self-storage facility near where the shooting occurred, the Daily Press previously reported.

'I always dread those calls'

San Bernardino County Sheriff's officials on March 23 gather at the Mojave Plaza in Hesperia, where Deputy Dustin Whitson was critically shot.

Three days after the shooting, McMahon told reporters that Whitson was shot in the left arm, with the bullet traveling into his chest behind his vest.

"What goes through your mind when you get that call that one of ours has been shot?" Harper asked McMahon during the interview.

McMahon said he has received calls about deputies being shot too many times. His first thought, he said, is the condition of the deputy and those involved.

"You never want to see anybody hurt, whether it be in a shooting incident as we're talking about today, or a traffic collision or just a physical fight with a suspect," McMahon said. "I always dread those calls."

In Whitson's case, McMahon said he was initially told the deputy survived a non-life-threatening shot in the arm.

"And boy, did that change," McMahon said.

Loma Linda

At the hospital, McMahon's concern grew as he spoke to the sheriff's helicopter pilots and on-board **San Bernardino County Fire** paramedics.

"I could see out of the corner of my eye, in the room where Dustin was, voices were getting raised and people were running around," McMahon told Harper. "That's not ever a good sign when you're in the emergency room."

Whitson suffered serious internal bleeding, according to McMahon, who was told the situation looked dire.

"Your heart just sinks when you hear that," McMahon said. "Unfortunately, we had that happen in this organization in the last eight years and you never like to see that. It bothers you every single time one of our folks gets hurt."

McMahon added that the sheriff's department has also experienced "incredible miracles" involving personnel who were saved thanks to "great medical care."

After undergoing surgery, Whitson remained in critical condition in the ICU.

A team effort

McMahon told Harper that a good Samaritan proved instrumental in saving Whitson's life.

"I've since talked to him, and he didn't believe that he did enough, but he truly did," McMahon said. "He took pictures of the suspect's vehicle, he got over to Dustin and was trying to wake him up because he was unconscious at the time."

McMahon said the unidentified man who helped Whitson also used the deputy's radio to call dispatch for assistance.

"So just all of the things that happened, it was meant to be. There's no doubt about it," said McMahon, who also credited dispatch for reaching out to other deputies who quickly responded.

McMahon said deputies placed a tourniquet on Whitson's arm and escorted him to the helicopter.

"Hats off to our pilot and medics on board, they made the decision to go," McMahon said.

According to McMahon, Dave Whitson appreciated his son's care, saying he did not know how well the sheriff's department treated its families.

McMahon said that care includes stationing a deputy at the hospital 24/7, and providing food and accommodations for the family.

"Dustin's fiancé was a bit concerned when we released his name, that maybe somebody might drive by their house," McMahon said. "It's no problem. We put a deputy sheriff there in an unmarked car 24 hours a day if they want for as long as you want."

McMahon praised the Loma Linda medical staff for saving Whitson's life and for hospital staff's "over the top" care of him and those there to support him.

Moving forward

Harper told McMahon she hates to think that there will be more instances where deputies like Whitson will be injured, but also understands that there may be a chance that it could happen again.

"What is your response to people who say that this is part of the job? Getting hurt is part of the job, or getting shot is part of the job?" Harper asked.

McMahon answered, "In the back of all of our minds, we know that there are times when we're going to be faced with danger like that."

McMahon noted that danger may also come in the form of injury from a serious traffic collision or any other activity that comes with the profession.

"We do the best that we can to limit that through training and policies and equipment," McMahon said. "When you hear somebody say in public 'that's just part of your job,' I don't know that losing your life is part of anybody's job that they plan on."

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/story/news/2021/05/17/warm-welcome-home-deputy-dustin-whitson-released-loma-linda-after-march-shooting-hesperia/5082781001/>

12 Year Old Dies, 3 Others Injured After Deputies Rescue Children In Fire | VICTORVILLE, CA 5.8.21

Staff Writer, Loudlabs News

Posted: May 17, 2021



SBSO Press Release:

"On Friday, May 7, 2021, at approximately 11:16 p.m., deputies from the Victor Valley Sheriff's Station and emergency rescue personnel from the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department responded to a residence in the 13400 block of Hidden Valley Road following the report of a house fire. Upon arrival, emergency personnel were advised four juveniles were inside the home on the second floor. Arriving personnel rescued the children, and they were all transported to local area hospitals. Despite life-saving measures performed, the 12-year-old succumbed to his injuries and was later pronounced deceased. The 5-year-old female and 5 and 10-year-old males remain in the hospital in critical condition. Two adults were in the home at the time of the fire and were able to exit the home."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDcqoOMbP5Q>

Alexander Westendorf Killed in Rollover Accident on 15 Freeway [Hesperia, CA]

Staff Writer, USA Accident Lawyer

Posted: May 17, 2021

HESPERIA, CA (May 17, 2021) – Alexander Jacob Westendorf was killed in a rollover accident in Hesperia Saturday morning, May 15.

The accident happened around 9:49 a.m. on northbound 15 Freeway, less than a mile north of Main Street. According to the California Highway Patrol, Westendorf was a 10-year-old passenger from Hesperia in a black Chevrolet Avalanche.

The Avalanche was pulling a travel trailer when it lost control for unknown reasons. It then overturned into the center divider, ejecting Westendorf. Several Good Samaritans stopped to help and lift the vehicle from the child who was pinned underneath.

San Bernardino County Fire responded and despite life-saving measures, the young boy died at the scene.

The California Highway Patrol Victorville station is investigating the crash. Anyone with information is asked to call 760-241-1186.

We would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Alexander Westendorf.

<https://usaccidentlawyer.com/news/alexander-westendorf-killed-rollover-accident-15-freeway-hesperia-ca/>

TWENTYNINE PALMS FIRE LEAVES FAMILY HOMELESS

Staff Writer, z1077fm.com

Posted: May 18, 2021



Photo courtesy San Bernardino County Fire Department

A family is temporarily homeless following a fire in Twentynine Palms Monday afternoon. Fire crews were called to the 72100 block of Sunnyslope Drive at 12:20 p.m. where an exterior fire had spread to the single-story home.

Firefighters completed an attack, searching for any potential victims. Crews were able to knock the fire down in about 20 minutes. Once the fire was knocked down, firefighters shifted their efforts on salvaging personal belongings and working on extinguishment. They managed to save multiple military medals and memorabilia for the resident. The resident was a decorated veteran between who served in the United States Marines.

Red Cross was notified to assist the two occupants with a Supplying Aid to Victims of Emergency (SAVE) card, which was also provided by #SBCoFD. The card is pre-loaded with money to aid in the post fire recovery.

While working on overhaul, one firefighter was injured. The injury was minor in nature and he was treated and released. The cause of the fire is under investigation by **San Bernardino County Fire** Investigators.

<http://z1077fm.com/twentynine-palms-fire-leaves-family-homeless/>