



# NEWS



## News Headlines 06/18/2021

- Deputies seize 1,930 marijuana plants at illegal grow in Hesperia after transformer fire

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Martin Estacio, Victorville Daily Press

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Firefighters Extinguish a fire that started in Hesperia on June 4, 2021. Authorities said the blaze was likely started by two illegal generators being used in an illegal marijuana grow. Courtesy of San Bernardino County fire Department.

Authorities seized more than 1,900 marijuana plants at a home in Hesperia after responding to a fire that investigators said was caused by the illegal grow.

The fire broke out at about 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the 7300 block of Redwood Avenue, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department said.

When deputies and firefighters arrived, officials said they found that the fire was "coming from a transformer near the location."

According to the sheriff's department, evidence led investigators from Southern California Edison to a home in the same block where they located an active electrical bypass.

Deputies served a search warrant at the home and confiscated about 1,930 marijuana plants. SCE investigators later determined that the illegal bypass overloaded the transformer, causing the fire, sheriff's officials said.

Two men were arrested and cited for utility theft and illegal marijuana cultivation: 38-year-old Ismael Hernandez De La Cruz and 26-year-old Antonio Cruz Diaz, a sheriff's spokesperson said.

### Previous fire likely sparked by grow, officials say

Tuesday's fire started more than a week after another blaze ignited in the city, which authorities said was also likely caused by growing marijuana.

Firefighters responded the afternoon of June 4 to "an unknown type fire" in the 10000 block of Fourth Avenue. They could see smoke from several blocks out, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

When crews arrived, they found "large piles of hay, brush and generators burning directly adjacent to a detached RV garage connected to smaller garage," authorities said.

Firefighters were able to knock down the fire in about 30 minutes, after it spread to the garages.

Sheriff's deputies served a search warrant and found about 900 cannabis plants growing. Officials said deputies also seized several pounds of processed marijuana and cash.

"Preliminary investigation suggests that the cause of the fire is believed to be two large illegal generators in close proximity of hay bales next to the structure," the sheriff's department said.

Two people there were arrested and cited for illegal marijuana cultivation.

A day before the June 4 fire, deputies discovered more than 1,250 marijuana plants growing at a residence in the 7000 block of Eleventh Avenue.

Authorities seized three firearms during the June 3 search warrant.

All three homes were reportedly cited by city Code Enforcement for municipal code violations.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/story/news/2021/06/17/deputies-seize-1-930-marijuana-plants-illegal-grow-hesperia-after-transformer-fire/7738727002/>