News Headlines 07/14/2021

- Fireworks Watch continues: SBC Fire receives thousands of reports
- Six people displaced after house fire in Helendale
- Two people injured; two dogs killed in house fire
The effort to prevent illegal fireworks from going off is a lot harder than one would think. In a new report sent to HDdailynews.com, since April 1st, 2021, San Bernardino County Fire have received 3,147 reports county wide. Over 700 of those reports were just outside the jurisdiction of the department.

In total, actual citations resulted in 99 with over 19,000 lbs of illegal fireworks confiscated from mid-May to mid-June.

Over the Fourth of July weekend, county fire crews in the High Desert were quite busy, literally putting out fires caused by fireworks. In Adelanto, where it is legally to light off fireworks, a structure fire had been sparked just off Palm Street.

And in Victorville, where lighting off fireworks is illegal, a dumpster fire just off El Evado Road had happened, stemming from fireworks. Another major incident had been over in the City of Hesperia where a vegetation fire just off Danbury Avenue erupted. An investigation by authorities determined it too was fireworks related.

In a recent article, written by Victorville's Mayor Debra Jones, she discusses illegal fireworks usage in the city. The mayor describes one accident specifically where a Victorville home caught on fire May 17, 2021 which was directly related to fireworks sparking a blaze.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), who say their mission is to save lives and reduce loss with information, knowledge, and passion:

- Fireworks started an estimated 19,500 fires in 2018, including 1,900 structure fires, 500 vehicle fires, and 17,100 outside and other fires. These fires caused five deaths, 46 civilian injuries, and $105 million in direct property damage.
- In 2018, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 9,100 people for fireworks related injuries; half of those injuries were to the extremities and 34% were to the eye or other parts of the head. Children younger than 15 years of age accounted for more than one-third (36%) of the estimated 2018 injuries. These injury estimates were obtained or derived from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission’s 2018 Fireworks Annual Report by Yongling Tu and Jason Ng.

Additionally, The San Bernardino County Fire Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) has implemented a modern technology called the Illegal Fireworks Reporter to request help from the public in reporting the sale and use of illegal fireworks. With over 1,500 complaints, the Office of the Fire Marshal substantiated the use of fireworks and mobilized personnel to heavy use areas, while concentrating their fire prevention and law
enforcement patrols in those areas. Fire prevention officers refer complaints made in outside jurisdictions to local public safety agencies. The new reporting system is located on our website at https://bit.ly/3ds5mR0.

HELENDALE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Six people were displaced after a fire damaged their home Monday afternoon in Helendale.

San Bernardino County Firefighters were dispatched to the residential fire in the 29000 block of Gunsmoke Road at about 1:30 pm, on July 12, 2021.

When firefighters arrived on scene they found heavy smoke and fire from an attached garage of a single-story home.

Battalion Chief Mike McClintock said crews initiated a transitional attack, working to keep the fire from spreading to the living quarters of the home. “No municipal water system in the area challenged firefighters, however they utilized water tenders and fire engines to shuttle water to keep water flowing.”

McClintock said the fire was knocked down in 30 minutes and firefighters were successful in keeping the fire from spreading to the majority of the living quarters. The American Red Cross was notified to assist six occupants displaced from the property. The fire is under investigation by Fire Investigators.

San Bernardino County Fire responded with an Engine, two Water Tenders, a Brush Patrol, a Battalion Chief and a Fire Investigator. Barstow, Marine Corps Logistics Base & Victorville also assisted, each with an Engine.

Two people were injured, and two dogs were killed after a fire at a home in Twentynine Palms Monday morning.

The fire happened at a home on the 5000 block of Cahuilla Avenue.

San Bernardino County firefighters arrived on scene and found heavy fire showing from the home. Firefighters added that they encountered energized power lines down behind the home as well.

Crews found two people with burn injuries outside the home. Officials said one person suffered severe burn injuries and was taken to Hi-Desert Medical Center in Joshua Tree. They were later flown to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton.

The second person suffered minor to moderate injuries and was transported to the Hi-Desert Medical Center. Firefighters said they also found two dead dogs inside the home.

The home sustained major damage as a result of the fire and was uninhabitable. Crews were able to knock down the fire in approximately 30 minutes and were able to keep flames from spreading to any nearby vegetation or exposures.

The fire is under investigation by San Bernardino County Fire Investigators.