



# NEWS



## News Headlines 08/11/2021

- Crews stop forward progress of wildfire near San Bernardino, Highway 18 reopens
- Free wildfire loss prevention assessments available

## Crews stop forward progress of wildfire near San Bernardino, Highway 18 reopens

Quinn Wilson, The Press Enterprise

Posted: August 10, 2021



A wildfire in Lower Waterman Canyon near San Bernardino prompted Highway 18 to be temporarily shut down Tuesday afternoon before its reopening in the evening, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** said.

The nearly 25-acre fire was reported at 3:54 p.m. and its forward rate of spread was stopped around 5:20 p.m., according to Zach Behrens, spokesman with the San Bernardino National Forest. Fire crews had reached 50 percent containment as of about 6:30 p.m., the Fire Department said.

The fire was located south of Highway 18 and briefly flared across the highway, Behrens said. A hillside was burned along with various chaparral plants and eucalyptus trees, Behrens said.

A firefighter also was hospitalized with a heat-related illness, according to Behrens.

No evacuation orders were issued.

Highway 18 was closed in both directions from Highway 138 at the Crestline Cutoff to 40th Street in San Bernardino before it was re-opened at 9:16 p.m., according to the California Highway Patrol.

The cause of the fire was not immediately known, said Behrens.

Additionally, six small fires sparked seemingly simultaneously throughout the San Bernardino National Forest near Big Bear Lake and Sugarloaf shortly after 4 p.m., Behrens said. Five of the fires were confined to trees while another was a quarter-acre near Mill Creek Road by Big Bear Lake, Behrens said.

Those various fires were caused by dry lightning strikes, Behrens said.

<https://www.pe.com/2021/08/10/10-acre-wildfire-prompts-shutdown-of-highway-18-near-san-bernardino/>

## Free wildfire loss prevention assessments available

Tom Oxley, Mohave Valley Daily News

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The Residential Assessment Program conducted by the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** provides education, advice, and suggestions for minimizing fire damage risk to county residents who live in an area that has a high risk for wildfire.

This includes the Needles area.

There is no charge for the service, nor are there fines, fees or any punitive actions for any violation of code.

The goal of the program is to raise the level of preparedness by residents.

Strategies include chimney spark arrestor; property vegetation maintenance, placing, and spacing; disaster planning; identifying more flammable plant species such as juniper, manzanita, Spanish broom, chamise, and greasewood; and recognizing suspicious and potentially arsonist activity.

The SBCFD is most likely the first responder to a fire emergency in and around Needles.

“The SBCFD provides fire, rescue, and EMS service in the City of Needles as well as the unincorporated area around the city,” said Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle. “(The district also) works closely with the city on code enforcement issues.”

As most residents are aware, the Needles area is susceptible to extensive property damage from wildfires.

“Every bit of the Mojave Desert with its thunder and lightning storms with high winds is at some level of risk,” said Needles City Manager/Utility Manager Rick Daniels. “Inside of the city our Code Enforcement Officers are very aggressive in monitoring brush conditions on vacant lots. . .overseeing any and all development permitting which has fire protection and prevention in all new development.”

In addition, he said the Public Utility Authority was required to do a Wildfire Mitigation Plan for a fire started by a downed electric conductor.

The NPUA also “oversees the Water Department, whose goal is to provide adequate fire flows in our water system so the Fire District can adequately respond in a suppression event,” Daniels said.

Further information may be obtained by visiting the Office of the Fire Marshall website, [www.sbcfire.org](http://www.sbcfire.org), and clicking on the Residential Assessment Program link. To make an appointment, call the office at 909-386-8400 or email [countyfirerap@sbcfire.org](mailto:countyfirerap@sbcfire.org) and provide your name, address, phone number and the best time you can be reached. You also can visit your local fire station.

<https://mohavedailynews.com/news/133462/free-wildfire-loss-prevention-assessments-available/>