



NEWS



News Headlines 08/12/2021

- Firefighters knock down fire that spread into brush in Oak Hills
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Firefighters knock down fire that spread into brush in Oak Hills

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News Group

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OAK HILLS, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Fire crews worked quickly to gain the upper hand on a fire that spread into vegetation Wednesday in Oak Hills.

At about 6:32 pm, on August 11, 2021, San Bernardino County Firefighters were dispatched to an unknown type of fire burning in the area o Edghell and Verbena Roads. The fire produced a thick column of black smoke visible from several miles away.

Arriving crews reported they had a residential structure fire with the house completely burned to the ground and fire spreading into the vegetation.

According to an SB County tweet, approximately two acres of brush were burning with multiple spots ahead of the fire and a structure threat. Crews worked quickly to stop the forward rate of spread and get hose lines around the fire. The structure threat was mitigated.

San Bernardino County Fire and CalFireBDU worked in unified command along with assistance from the San Bernardino National Forest.

The cause of the fire is unknown and under investigation.

<https://www.vvng.com/firefighters-knock-down-house-fire-that-spread-into-brush-in-oak-hills/>

\$10,000 Reward for Boat & Dock Fire Info

Angela Yap, Mountain News

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In an effort to identify and convict the perpetrators of the July 16, 2021 boat and dock fire at the North Shore Multiple 4 Dock, the Arrowhead Lake Association (ALA) has created a reward fund for information resulting in the conviction of the person(s) who broke into numerous boats in the area and started the fire.

“The ALA will get the reward fund started by contributing \$10,000 to the fund,” said Bob Mattison, general manager of ALA. “We encourage others in the community to join this effort by contributing to the reward fund to make it even bigger to create an incentive for someone to come forward with information. The reward will be given to the person who provides information resulting in a conviction for this crime.”

William Roberts, who lost his Hallett 240 in the boat fire, is still in pain from this loss. “I work very hard to make Lake Arrowhead a special place with a special boat where we are here every weekend in the summer. To have someone take it away from my family... it has been a painful experience. Although my kids are older, it is still very painful for all of us.” “The question is why? My family has been here since 1959 for generations,” said Roberts. “Lake Arrowhead has been a safe place for my family. It is one thing to go through a period of vandalism, but in a community like Lake Arrowhead that suffered the Old Fire, I don’t understand the purpose of setting the fire and burning property.”

He was in shocked when he was told his boat was gone that Friday morning, July 16, as he and his girlfriend had just gone boating the afternoon before on July 15.

“To me, Hallett, that brand has been bought out by another company,” Roberts shared. “I may or may not be able to replace it.”

William Roberts said he worked at the San Bernardino Superintendent’s office and due to COVID, had been working especially hard. He finally was able to take July 15 and 16 off from work to come to Lake Arrowhead - and then experienced such loss.

“It could have been considerably worse if the fire spread down the canyon,” Roberts added. Other lakeside home owners and hospital personnel agreed.

Anyone who would like to contribute to the reward fund, please call the ALA at 909-337-2595 and speak to a Customer Service staff member or visit the ALA office in person.

“The ALA will provide information on our website regarding the size of the reward fund as it grows,” added Mattison. “I have personally just contributed \$500 to add to the fund, as have many of the ALA Board members. We will track the fund growth on the ALA website. Let’s catch these criminals!”

“An arson investigation by **San Bernardino County Fire** is still underway.,” said Mattison. “Since the dock is unusable, ALA has granted those boat owners whose boats are still operable the use of the ALA Liberty Dock until their dock is repaired or replaced.”

As reported in the Mountain News, July 22, 2021 issue, seven boats and a multiple dock (North Shore Marina Dock #4) in Lake Arrowhead were on fire early Friday morning, July 16, destroying the dock, seven boats, and damaging five other boats. Some of the burned boats included Hallett 240, Bennington, Crownline, FOUR WINNS, Harris, Falcon, and others were not recognizable. The damage is estimated at \$2 million.

San Bernardino County firefighters were dispatched to Arrowhead Lake Association (ALA) Marina of Highway 173 shortly after 4 a.m. after receiving multiple 911 calls as early as 4:05 a.m., 4:19 a.m. to 4:20 a.m. from nearby lakeside home owners.

“My main concern was the brush and the homes around the fire. It was windy,” said Marilyn Dishell. “I have been up here for 56 years. I hope the investigators will catch these people.”

When the Fire crews arrived, they found multiple boats aflame and the dock on fire. The crew battled the fire from Fire Boat 92 using the deck gun and hose on board and extinguished the fire in about 25 minutes, according to Captain Greg Gallagher from Station 92. “When our Fire Boat arrived, we saw two boats that are on fire floating toward the adjacent multiple docks, so we put out the fire on those boats first to stop the spread,” said Gallagher. “This is the first in my fire fighting career to see multiple boats on fire. And the dock was on fire, and one fireman fell through the dock half way but he is okay.” “Our guys did a very good job battling the fire,” said Gallagher. “It could be way worse.”

Hector Trevino, Arson Investigator from the Office of the Fire Marshall was on scene and said, “In my 20 years career, I have never seen anything like this. It is highly suspicious.”

Anthony Rapoza, Battalion Chief was also on scene and echoed the same perspective. Rick Reisenhofer, ALA Lake Patrol Supervisor said he had never seen multiple boats on fire.

“This terrible fire event has triggered discussion of how members can improve security at their docks and how members can obtain insurance for their docks,” Mattison added. “ALA is preparing information for members regarding options for implementing security cameras at docks and options for obtaining dock insurance. In the near-term, security cameras at privately owned docks are encouraged.”

Officials find the boat fire incident highly suspicious. Anyone with any information please contact Hector Trevino, Arson Investigator, by calling (909) 918- 2201.

<https://mountain-news.com/news/40697/10000-reward-for-boat-dock-fire-info/>

