News Headlines 09/15/2021

- 5 families displaced, 2 pets die in Apple Valley fire; candle may have set couch ablaze
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Rene Ray De La Cruz, Victorville Daily Press
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Firefighters on Monday night battle a fire at a two-story apartment complex on Yucca Loma Road south of Highway 18 in Apple Valley. Photo Courtesy of Casey Williams

Five families were displaced and two animals died during a fire in a two-story apartment complex south of Highway 18 in Apple Valley on Monday night.

The Apple Valley Fire Protection District received the report of a fire at 11:18 p.m. Monday in the 21400 block of Yucca Loma Road, district spokeswoman Jennifer told the Daily Press on Tuesday.

The apartment is near Yucca Loma Elementary School and Smart Start Academy, both on Yucca Loma Road.

Upon arrival, first responders discovered the top floor of the two-story apartment complex in flames, with the occupants safely outside the building, the AVFPD reported.

While attacking the blaze, firefighters searched the structure for occupants and didn't find any.

But the department said a small dog and cat died in the fire.

Firefighters continued to fight the blaze, which was contained to the top floor of the apartment unit where the fire originated. Salvage efforts were also made on the first floor to minimize water damage.

AVFPD officials suspect the cause of the fire to be an unattended candle near a couch in a living room, and estimate about $200,000 worth of damage.

Responding departments to the incident included the AVFPD, Victorville Fire, San Bernardino County Fire and San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department deputies.

No one was injured in the fire. The American Red Cross assisted the displaced families.