



NEWS



News Headlines 09/17-20/2021

- Homeless encampments in San Bernardino County mountains target of new ban
- Klinefelter, CA: Overturned semi truck crash along westbound Interstate 40 just west of U.S. Route 95
- Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Event will be happening in October 2021 at the City of Needles Public Works Department Yard
- Downtown Needles, CA: Commercial structure fire at the Econo Lodge hotel
- No injuries after truck fire on southbound I-15 in the Cajon Pass

Homeless encampments in San Bernardino County mountains target of new ban

Joe Nelson, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: September 17, 2021



San Bernardino County probation officer and sheriff's HOPE Team member Victoria Whitworth, left, checks on Travis Stock, who's been living homeless for a year in Waterman Canyon in San Bernardino on Thursday, Sept. 2, 2021. (Photo by Watchara Phomicinda, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG)

Public safety and code enforcement officials in San Bernardino County are ramping up efforts to vacate homeless people in the mountains and canyons in the aftermath of a Board of Supervisors ban on encampments in areas of high fire danger.

On Tuesday, Sept. 14, board members unanimously approved a resolution directing the county's land use services and code enforcement departments to help clear homeless encampments in unincorporated areas designated as "very high fire hazard severity zones," starting with the ones most at risk. Those areas mainly include the mountains and canyons.

Not only is it unsafe for the homeless to be living in high-fire-danger areas, especially during fire season, but it is also unsafe for firefighters and other first responders who would be tasked with getting them out of harm's way should a wildfire erupt.

"People located in encampments ... may miss emergency notifications and may experience challenges in safely evacuating a fire area," the resolution states. "Efforts to notify or evacuate people in encampments ... can cause undue risk and/or harm to outreach workers and emergency responders."

While the resolution does not apply to homeless encampments on federal forest land, that does not mean it cannot be of use to the U.S. Forest Service.

"I think the resolution can be helpful if it brings more focus and resources to figuring out solutions to the overall challenge, Forest Service land or not," said U.S. Forest Service spokesman Zachary Behrens.

In the past week, Forest Service rangers cited three homeless individuals, two for building a structure in the Crestline area and another for driving his vehicle, which he was living in, off a designated route, Behrens said. 'Increased sense of urgency'

Since the resolution was adopted, the county's Community Revitalization Agency, along with code enforcement and the sheriff's H.O.P.E. (Homeless Outreach Proactive Enforcement) team, have been making contact with homeless persons at encampments in high-fire-risk areas based on risk data provided by the county's Fire Protection District, county spokesman David Wert said in an email Friday.

“What the community is going to see ... is a geographic focus and an increased sense of urgency applied to the county’s ongoing nationally recognized collaborative efforts to shelter and provide a range of other services to the county’s homeless population,” Wert said.

Supervisor Janice Rutherford, whose district includes the mountain communities of Crestline and Lake Arrowhead, drafted the resolution in response to resident concerns over the proliferation of homeless encampments in the mountains, canyons, and on highway turnouts, and the potential fire danger they present. The statewide closure of forest land due to the increased fire threat also prompted Rutherford to take action. Similar measure in LA County

Rutherford’s resolution is similar to one unanimously approved by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on Aug. 10.

With 66,000 homeless people, 72% of them unsheltered, Los Angeles County has the highest unsheltered homeless population in the United States.

San Bernardino County reported 3,125 homeless people during its 2020 Point in Time Homeless Count, representing a nearly 20% increase from 2019. In 2019, the tally was 23% higher than in 2018, when volunteers counted 2,118 people .

On Tuesday, the sheriff’s H.O.P.E. team canvassed City Creek, in the area of Highland Avenue and Highway 330 — the route to Running Springs — making contact with about 30 homeless people and informing them about the new county order. The team also made contact with about a dozen homeless individuals at encampments in the Mill Creek Wash, near Highway 38 and Bryant Avenue, at the Mentone-Yucaipa border, sheriff’s Deputy Mike Jones said.

He said the team also will be reaching out to the homeless at encampments in Lytle Creek and in proximity to the unincorporated mountain community near Interstate 15 and Sierra Avenue. Directed to housing, services

Team members have been directing the homeless to available housing and essential services, such as medical treatment.

Next week, the H.O.P.E. team will meet with county firefighters to discuss, among other things, working with the Forest Service on a plan to address homeless encampments in mountain communities — on federal land or on private property — that are outside the jurisdiction of the county Sheriff’s and Fire departments, Jones said.

County firefighters will continue assisting the H.O.P.E. team and Forest Service by citing anyone — homeless or not — for starting illegal fires, said Mike McClintock, a battalion chief for the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2021/09/17/homeless-encampments-in-san-bernardino-county-mountains-target-of-new-ban/>

Breaking News: Klinefelter, CA: Overturned semi truck crash along westbound Interstate 40 just west of U.S. Route 95.

Zachary Lopez, ZachNews
Posted: September 19, 2021



Sources: California Highway Patrol and **San Bernardino County Fire Department** (Information):

Klinefelter, California: An overturned semi truck crash has occurred along westbound Interstate 40 just west of U.S. Route 95.

The incident came into dispatch at 9:21 a.m. PT on Sunday, September 19th, 2021.

Medical Engine 32 from San Bernardino County Fire Department along with Medical Ambulance 31A is responding, and a Careflight medevac helicopter has been called to respond.

ZachNews Photojournalist Zachary Lopez responding to the incident, but is stuck in the traffic jam due to the Overturned semi truck crash.

Arriving on scene, the overturned semi truck has been moved onto the center divider and lanes along westbound Interstate 40 have been reopened.

As of 10:40 a.m. PT, Careflight helicopter had taken off a few minutes ago near the location of the overturned semi truck, and was in route to a hospital in Las Vegas, Nevada.

As of 11:24 a.m. PT, California Highway Patrol tell ZachNews that the patient that was transported to hospital in Las Vegas Nevada was in an “altered state of consciousness.”

ZachNews also learned of two separate accidents near the original overturned semi truck crash, but those were non-injuries and were all onto the right shoulder along westbound Interstate 40.

Be advised that due to the overturned semi truck crash, traffic is backed up for a few miles to Park Road cutoff in Needles, California.

Please drive with caution through the area.

<https://zachnews.net/2021/09/19/breaking-news-klinefelter-ca-overturned-semi-truck-crash-along-westbound-interstate-40-just-west-of-u-s-route-95/>

Needles, CA: Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Event will be happening in October 2021 at the City of Needles Public Works Department Yard.

Zachary Lopez, ZachNews

Posted: September 19, 2021



Sources: San Bernardino County Fire Department and City of Needles (Information):

Picture: San Bernardino County Fire Department (Courtesy):

Needles, California: Join the **San Bernardino County Fire Department's** Household Hazardous Waste Team and the City of Needles on Saturday, October 2nd, 2021 for a Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Event.

People can drop off household hazardous waste items from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. PT at the City of Needles Public Works Department Yard located at 112 Robuffa Street just south of East Broadway.

Household hazardous waste items include antifreeze, e-waste, batteries, electronics, oil, oil filters, cosmetics, pesticides and much more.

Transport no more than 15 gallons or 125 lbs in containers larger than 5 gallons.

Containers must be sound and not leaking.

No business waste will be accepted.

Please have all waste in the back of the vehicle.

For more information, please call: 1(800)645-9228 or learn about all the ways you can help keep our county clean by visiting: <https://sbcfire.org/hhw/>

Thank you for caring about keeping your county clean of household hazardous waste.

<https://zachnews.net/2021/09/19/needles-ca-household-hazardous-waste-drop-off-event-will-be-happening-in-october-2021-at-the-city-of-needles-public-works-department-yard/>

Needles, CA: Downtown Needles, CA: Commercial structure fire at the Econo Lodge hotel.

Zachary Lopez, ZachNews

Posted: September 19, 2021



Source: San Bernardino County Fire Department (Information):

The report of the commercial structure fire came in at 10:27 p.m. PT on Saturday, September 18th, 2021.

ZachNews Photojournalist Zachary Lopez rushed to the scene and broadcast live at ZachNews on Facebook the reported commercial structure fire.

Firefighters from **San Bernardino County Fire Department** as well as Mohave Valley Fire Department are on scene.

Deputies from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department's Colorado River Station were also on scene helping to evacuate people from their rooms.

Report of smoke visible from the roof but no visible flames.

The fire is under control and cause is under investigation.

<https://zachnews.net/2021/09/18/breaking-news-downtown-needles-ca-commercial-structure-fire-at-the-econo-lodge-hotel/>

No injuries after truck fire on southbound I-15 in the Cajon Pass

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News Group

Posted: September 17, 2021



(Photo by Radel Aguinaga)

CAJON PASS, Calif. (VVNG.com) –No injuries were reported after a Friday morning fire involving a pickup truck in the Cajon Pass.

The incident was reported at 6:30 am, on the southbound I-15 freeway, south of Oak Hill Rd near the brake check area.

San Bernardino County Firefighters arrived on scene and located flames showing from a silver Nissan Titan along the right shoulder of the freeway with no threat to the vegetation.

The fire was quickly knocked down and the cause is unknown at this time.

Traffic was briefly congested while the fire was knocked down.

<https://www.vvng.com/no-injuries-after-truck-fire-on-southbound-i-15-in-the-cajon-pass/>