News Headlines 03/19-21/2022

- Sunday night fire in Yucca Valley Displaces 2, destroys home, claims lives of 3 cats
- SB County fire responds to a house fire in Helendale on Saturday
- Heritage Fire Damages Mojave Desert Conservation Site, Leaving Vulnerable Wildlife Exposed
- Dodgers alumni attend Bloomington Little League opening day
SUNDAY NIGHT FIRE IN YUCCA VALLEY DISPLACES 2, DESTROYS HOME, CLAIMS LIVES OF 3 CATS
By Staff Writer, Z107.7FM
Posted: March 21, 2022

A Yucca Valley family is working with the Red Cross following a fire that took their home and the lives of their cats. Last night (March 20) just before 11 p.m., San Bernardino County Fire crews were dispatched to a reported residential structure fire in the 7600 block of Acoma Trail in Yucca Valley. Multiple 911 callers witnessed smoke and fire from a home.

According to Chief Michael McClintock, crews quickly arrived to find heavy smoke and fire showing from a single-story, single-family residence. Firefighters initiated a fire attack, working to keep the fire from spreading further through the home. Heavy winds fueled the fire, carrying smoke and embers to adjacent properties, threatening them. Arriving firefighters fought the fire both inside and on the roof, knocking the fire down in approximately 20 minutes. Two residents were outside prior to crews’ arrival. Unfortunately, three deceased cats were found inside the home. A fire investigator responded, and the fire remains under investigation. Thankfully, there were no injuries to the residents or firefighters according to Chief McClintock. The Red Cross was notified to assist with temporary housing and other assistance for the two displaced occupants.

San Bernardino County Fire responded with three Engines, a Medic Ambulance, Battalion Chief, and Fire Investigator. CALFIRE E3554 based out of Yucca Valley assisted as well.

SB County fire responds to a house fire in Helendale on Saturday
By Staff Writer, VICTOR VALLEY NEWS GROUP
Posted: March 19, 2022

HELENDALE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — San Bernardino County Fire responded to a residential structure fire in the community of Helendale on Saturday afternoon. The fire was reported just before 11:30 am, on March 19, 2022, in the 14400 block of Jamaica Lane in the community of Helendale.

County Fire arrived on scene and located an exterior fire that has extended into a 2-story residence. Crews worked quickly to knock down the fire and a primary search returned all clear. One dog was rescued from the home during the initial attack. According to a County Fire tweet, two subjects were checked on scene medically by paramedics and were not transported. A total of 17 personnel were assigned to the fire including 4 engines, 1 truck, 1 battalion chief, 1 investigator.

Crews will remain on scene for the next hour for overhaul and operations. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Heritage Fire Damages Mojave Desert Conservation Site, Leaving Vulnerable Wildlife Exposed
By Camila Thur de Koos and Nate Perez, LAIST.COM
Posted: March 18, 2022

The full scope of the damage caused by the Heritage Fire is still unclear, but Cody Hanford of the Mojave Desert Land Trust estimates at least 50% of the trees that came into contact with the blaze are dead or will die.

A riparian conservation area in the Mojave Desert has been damaged by the Heritage Fire, which has burned about 500 acres near Victorville, according to the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District.

While the fire is now about 95% contained, the full scope of the damage at Palisades Ranch is unclear.

What was once a river shielded by a forest in the middle of the desert is now exposed, leaving around 40 special-status wildlife species, including beavers, birds, and other animals, vulnerable to trespassers and invasive species.

That's a major concern for Cody Hanford, co-executive director of the Mojave Desert Land Trust.

"This time of year is nesting season for birds," he said. "So birds like the Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo, the Least Bell's Vireo and the Lucy's warbler are really important — federally threatened — birds that depend on the area, and this was a really difficult time for them to have to flee a fire."

Hanford estimates about 50% of the trees that came into contact with the fire are dead.

A news release from the trust notes:

Very few records exist for some of the species recorded in this area, indicating they are at the limits of their normal ranges. Still, there's a glimmer of hope, Hanford said. The trust and local agencies can learn more about fire recovery, and the fire also cleared out a lot of invasive species on the ranch.

"Riparian systems themselves are resilient, and over time, they can come back," he said. "As long as we do no harm to them and give them an opportunity."

Los Angeles Dodgers alumnus Steve Yeager, who was on the 1981 World Series champion team, speaks to Bloomington Little League players at the league’s opening day ceremonies March 5, 2022.

Two Los Angeles Dodgers alumni, members of the 1981 World Series championship team, attended Bloomington Little League’s opening day ceremonies at Kessler Park.

Co-MVPs Ron Cey, third baseman on the 1981 team, and catcher Steve Yeager were at the March 5 opening day event and spoke to the Little League players. Some of the young players also received autographed baseballs.

Others attending the opening day ceremonies included San Bernardino County 5th District Supervisor Joe Baca Jr. and members of the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department, the San Bernardino County Fire Department, the California Highway Patrol and the Bloomington Municipal Advisory Council, according to a news release.

“The Bloomington Little League members had a blast seeing baseball legends Ron Cey and Steve Yeager attend the event,” Baca said in the news release.

“The Dodger alumni gave the children an inspirational speech. These 1981 World Series champions’ presence at the opening was very special to the Little League,” Baca said.

https://www.sbsun.com/2022/03/19/dodgers-alumni-attend-bloomington-little-league-opening-day/