



NEWS



News Headlines 03/25/2022

- Firefighters knock down small brush fire Wednesday night in the Cajon Pass
- Sessler takes over as Redlands fire chief

Firefighters knock down small brush fire Wednesday night in the Cajon Pass

By Staff Writer, VICTOR VALLEY NEWES GROUP

Posted: March 24, 2022



(credit: Nataly Gonzalez)

CAJON PASS, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Fire crews worked quickly to knock down a small brush fire Wednesday night in the Cajon Pass. On March 23, 2022, at about 8:06 pm, dispatch received reports of multiple spot fires along the northbound I-15 freeway, near Kenwood Avenue.

According to the California Highway Patrol incident logs, a tailpipe muffler sparked the roadside brush fires **San Bernardino County Fire** and U.S Forest Service firefighters responded to the incident and reported they had three small spot fires with the largest approximately 10×30.

Video sent to VVNG by Nataly Gonzales showed flames pushing upwards towards the hillside. The no. 1 lane was closed while fire personnel worked to extinguish the fire and any hotspots. CHP made contact with a vehicle just before the Highway 395 off-ramp. The driver cooperated with the officer before being allowed to leave.

<https://www.vvng.com/firefighters-knock-down-small-brush-fire-wednesday-night-in-the-cajon-pass/>

Sessler takes over as Redlands fire chief

By Eric Sandoval, REDLANDS COMMUNITY NEWS

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Rich Sessler has been named Redlands fire chief. He replaces Jim Topoleski who served in the role for two years before retiring and accepting a position with **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

“It’s surreal and I’m excited to lead such a great organization and community as fire chief,” said Redlands Fire Chief, Rich Sessler.

Sessler has served in various roles with the city since 2005. He first entered the fire service in 1997 as a fire Explorer in Rancho Cucamonga. Two years later, he joined the Riverside Fire department and attended the 49th basic academy while also receiving his associate degree from Crafton Hills College.

From 1998 to 2005, Sessler served numerous roles within Forest Service, including with the Del Rosa and Mill Creek Hotshots. Throughout these two stops, Sessler climbed the ranks up to captain before joining Redlands Fire Department as a firefighter.

Sessler served four years as a firefighter for the city from 2005 to 2009 and two years as an instructor at Crafton Hills College from 2007 to 2009. He also received his bachelor’s degree in public safety administration from Grand Canyon University and accepted the role as an engineer in 2009 with Redlands.

Sessler’s run as an engineer was short-lived as he was once again given an opportunity to move up and become a captain that same year. During his five years as captain from 2009 to 2014, Sessler earned multiple accolades and achievements, including receiving his master’s degree in management in 2012 from the University of Redlands. In the same year, he was named firefighter of the year.

Following his run as captain, Sessler moved up to battalion chief from 2014 to 2018. After his four years as battalion chief, Sessler moved up to deputy fire chief in 2018 and held the position along with multiple interim fire chief roles before finally becoming Redlands’ newest permanent Fire Chief on Friday, March 25.

Now being named chief after climbing the ranks, Sessler wants to be present in the moment and continue helping and leading the community.

“This city has been great and I’m excited to be part of the community in this leadership role and continue to move the department forward,” said Sessler.

While Sessler has been acknowledged and commended for his commitment to excellence and work in Fire Service, he is also commended for his love and commitment to his wife Tammy and their children Anthony, Tyler, Khloe and Mike.

https://www.redlandscommunitynews.com/news/public_safety/sessler-takes-over-as-redlands-fire-chief/article_80434862-ab93-11ec-8eaf-23c785c8dbec.html