News Headlines 03/28/2023

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- Hesperia AutoZone closed after man shot in parking lot
- Cargo train derails in San Bernardino County desert
- Driver Killed After Being Ejected Southbound I-15 Near Glen Helen Pkwy Sunday Night
Train derails in Mojave National Preserve east of Barstow
By Rene Ray De La Cruz, Victorville Daily Press
March 28, 2023

San Bernardino County Fire officials on Monday morning responded to a Union Pacific train derailment near Kelso Depot in the Mohave National Preserve east of Barstow.

A Union Pacific train derailment near Kelso Depot in the Mojave National Preserve was reported to San Bernardino County Fire officials on Monday.

Two locomotives and 55 rail cars loaded with iron ore derailed around 8:30 a.m. near Kelbaker and Kelso Cima roads, roughly 80 miles east of Barstow and between Interstate 15 and 40, according to fire officials.

There was no fire found when crews arrived on the scene, county fire spokesman Eric Sherwin said. Additionally, there were no passengers involved.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported that UP spokeswoman Kristen South said, “The crew was not in the cab at the time of the derailment and there was uncontrolled train movement … the cause is under investigation.”

Other derailments

The UP train derailment followed a BNSF freight train derailment on March 15 near Exit 9 along I-40 in Arizona, according to Mohave County Sheriff’s Office spokeswoman Anita Mortensen.

The derailment, near the California and Nevada border, involved a train carrying corn syrup, according to Mortensen, who was not aware of any spills or leaks.

Weather conditions and flooding made it difficult for responding agencies to make it to the scene, said Mortensen.

The cause of the derailment is under investigation.

On March 16, a BNSF train derailment spilled diesel fuel on tribal land along Puget Sound in Washington.

No injuries were reported and the cause of the derailment is under investigation.

The derailment in Washington occurred on a berm along Padilla Bay, on the Swinomish tribal reservation near Anacortes.
Most of the 5,000 gallons of spilled diesel fuel leaked on the land side of the berm rather than toward the water, according to the state Ecology Department.

Officials said there were no indications the spill reached the water or affected any wildlife.

In early February, a train operated by Norfolk Southern that was carrying toxic chemicals derailed in eastern Ohio, igniting a fire that covered the town of East Palestine in smoke, the New York Times reported.

The Ohio derailment set off evacuation orders, school and road closures, and a national conversation about railroad safety.

Hesperia AutoZone closed after man shot in parking lot
By Staff Writer, Victor Valley News Group
March 27, 2023

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — The AutoZone in the City of Hesperia is closed after a man was shot in the parking lot Monday afternoon.

It happened at about 4:30 pm, on March 27, 2023, in the 17100 block of Main Street near G Avenue.

According to witnesses, after hearing multiple shots, they saw a man lying on the ground and a woman screaming nearby.

Firefighters with the San Bernardino County Fire Department and deputies with the Hesperia Police Department arrived on scene rushing the victim by ambulance to a hospital. His condition was unknown as of Monday afternoon.

The AutoZone parking lot was secured with crime scene tape as Homicide Detectives with the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department conducted an investigation.

This is a developing story and information will be updated as it becomes available.

UPDATE at 7:35 pm – Sheriff’s officials told VVNG the victim was transported to the hospital and pronounced deceased. Sheriff’s spokeswoman Gloria Huerta said, “the suspect is not in custody and I am waiting on confirmation on the gender of the victim.”

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, Calif. - More than 50 train cars derailed in San Bernardino County Monday, causing a brief fuel spill, according to officials.

The train derailed in Kelso, a ghost town in the Mojave National Preserve about 65 miles from the Arizona border. San Bernardino County Fire officials first reported the derailment around 11 a.m. near the intersection of Kelbaker Road and Kelso Cima Road.

In total, 55 cars including two locomotives were knocked off the tracks. Fire officials said the train was a cargo train carrying iron ore.

Images shared on social media showed the train completely wrecked, with the train tracks split open with sand piled high on one side.

Hazmat officials responded to the scene to look at a fuel leak caused by one of derailed locomotives, but fire officials said there was no other threat to the public or the environment. No injuries were reported.

The Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration said it's sending crews to the scene of the derailment to investigate.

DEVORE, CA. (Pain In The Pass) >> California Highway Patrol is investigating a fatal car crash that killed a male driver Sunday night on southbound Interstate 15.

CHP and San Bernardino County Fire Department responded to the traffic crash involving a dark gray Chevrolet Camaro at about 9:43pm Sunday March 27, 2023. The collision was located on southbound Interstate 15 just north of Glen Helen Parkway exit.

A witness stated on the CHP traffic log the Camaro lost control at high rate of speed and hit the guardrail on the right shoulder. The male driver, the sole occupant was ejected from the car. The Camaro ended up the embankment.

Rescue crews rendered aid to the driver but sadly he succumbed to his injuries sustained in the collision.

His identity has not been released publicly at this time.

We will update this story with more information when the CHP’s preliminary accident report is available. Additional details were limited at this time. This incident will be under investigation by the California Highway Patrol Inland Office.