



NEWS



News Headlines 05/24/2023

- Driver killed in crash on Summit Valley Road identified as 57-year-old Hesperia man
- Family loses home in Morongo Valley fire

Driver killed in crash on Summit Valley Road identified as 57-year-old Hesperia man

By Staff Writer, Victor Valley News Group
May 23, 2023



(Photo by Hugo Valdez, VVNG.com)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — The San Bernardino County Coroner’s Office identified the driver killed in a head-on traffic collision Monday evening in Hesperia.

It happened at about 6:47 pm, on May 22, 2023, on Summit Valley Road between Agate and Telephone Canyon Roads.

San Bernardino County Fire along with deputies from the Hesperia Sheriff’s Station responded to the scene and upon arrival located a silver 2021 Mitsubishi Outlander and a white 2019 Chevy Traverse, both with major damage.

Firefighters pronounced the driver of the Mitsubishi deceased at the scene. He was later identified by the coroner’s office as **Steve L. McClune**, 57, a resident of Hesperia.

Two other people were transported from the scene by ground ambulances with non-life-threatening injuries.

The city of Hesperia Public Works responded and set up a hard closure of Summit Valley Road between Rancho Road and Bandicott Trail for several hours.

The official cause of the accident is under investigation and additional information will be updated as it becomes available.

<https://www.vvng.com/driver-killed-in-head-on-crash-on-summit-valley-road-idd-as-57-year-old-hesperia-man/>

Family loses home in Morongo Valley fire

By Crystal Harrell, Hi-Desert Star

May 23, 2023



A fire near Covington Park in Morongo Valley destroyed a house as well as several vehicles and other property May 17.

MORONGO VALLEY — Fire destroyed a family’s home May 17 in the 49800 block of Senilis Avenue.

Morongo Valley firefighters who were called to the scene arrived to find single-family house fully involved with fire, with more flames starting to burn the surrounding vegetation, Chief Jim Brakebill said. The residence was occupied at the time the fire started.

Prior to the arrival of firefighters, one of the occupants ran into the house to rescue their cat and was quickly overcome by smoke and heat, Brakebill said. That person was treated on-scene by fire department paramedics, and had to be transported by Morongo Basin Ambulance to Hi-Desert Medical Center for treatment of smoke inhalation.

“The cat perished in the house fire,” Brakebill said.

“Due to gusty winds, the fire quickly spread to the surrounding vegetation on the property and destroyed several vehicles that were parked in the vegetation that belonged to the occupants,” he added.

Southern California Edison was called to the scene to shut off power to the house and downed power lines.

The Morongo Valley Fire Department responded with its medic engine and water tanker. Brakebill was incident commander and requested mutual aid from nearby departments. The San Bernardino County fire department responded with a medic fire engine and crew from Yucca Valley and a water tanker and crew from Twentynine Palms.

Cal Fire sent crews from Yucca Valley, Beaumont and Desert Hot Springs.

It took fire units approximately one hour and 25 minutes to completely extinguish the fire. They were successful in containing the fire to the house and property, preventing flames from spreading to the surrounding homes and into nearby Covington Park and the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve.

The home and several vehicles were destroyed by the fire.

Brakebill contacted the Red Cross Disaster Team; members responded to the fire and were able to aid the property owner and occupants of the home. Brakebill said he also interviewed the property owner and residents, who stated that one occupant inadvertently overloaded the

electrical circuits, causing the outside fuse box and electrical panel to erupt in flames that quickly spread to the eaves, attic and roof.

Brakebill and the San Bernardino County fire investigator conducted a preliminary investigation of the scene and found the burn patterns and evidence that were consistent with the statements obtained from the occupants. The results of the full and final investigation are pending.

There were no injuries to fire personnel working on the scene.

“Right now our main focus is pooling funds together for rehousing ASAP so that the little ones can get back to a regular life of stability and school,” said David O’Neil, a member of the family impacted by the fire.

A GoFundMe page has been created to help the O’Neil family: https://www.gofundme.com/f/oneil-house-fire-relief?utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet&utm_content=undefined&utm_medium=copy_link_all&utm_source=customer&utm_term=undefined

<https://hidesertstar.com/news/184000/family-loses-home-in-morongovaleley-fire/>