



NEWS



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Huge warehouse fire in Redlands prompts High Desert smoke advisory

Martin Estacio, Victorville Daily Press

Posted: June 5, 2020



A warehouse fire in Redlands prompted a local air management district to issue a smoke advisory for parts of the Victor Valley on Friday, June 5, 2020. [PHOTO COURTESY OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT]

A smoke advisory was issued for parts of the Victor Valley due to a massive warehouse fire in Redlands that started early Friday morning.

“A large continuous cloud of black smoke is moving up and over the San Bernardino mountains from Redlands and air quality sensor data shows impacts to ambient (breathable) air quality in Adelanto, Apple Valley, Hesperia, Lucerne Valley, Phelan and Victorville and immediate surrounding communities,” the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District said in a statement.

The agency said air quality in other parts of the Victor Valley were unaffected as of around 10:30 a.m. Friday.

Redlands Fire Department posted a video of the blaze at 7:22 a.m. on their Facebook page, saying it was burning at a distribution center on West Lugonia Avenue and that westbound Interstate 10 was shut down.

The building is operated by a third-party operator, Kuehne+Nagel, which ships “extra large items to customers” for Amazon, the San Bernardino Sun reported.

The **San Bernardino County Fire Department** tweeted they were assisting RFD on the three-alarm fire.

The MDAQMD said air quality levels for some High Desert areas were in the orange, meaning unhealthy for people with preexisting conditions, such as respiratory or heart disease, as well as for children, seniors and those who work or exercise outside.

The agency recommended staying indoors with windows and doors closed and running an air conditioner for recirculating air.

As of 1 p.m. AirNow, an air quality reporting site, showed the following levels: Adelanto, moderate; Apple Valley, moderate; Hesperia, good; Phelan, good; and Victorville, moderate.

Moderate, in the yellow range, means air quality is acceptable, though there may be a risk for people “unusually sensitive to air pollution,” according to the U.S. Air Quality Index.

The Victor Valley communities in that range showed PM2.5 pollution, or fine particulate matter that is inhalable and can cause damage to the heart and lungs.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, PM2.5 “poses the greatest risk to health” out of two types of particulate matter pollution.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20200605/huge-warehouse-fire-in-redlands-prompts-high-desert-smoke-advisory>

Flames rip through vast SoCal shipping warehouse

Staff Writer, FOX 5 San Diego

Posted: June 5, 2020



Flames rip through a vast warehouse in Redlands, California.

REDLANDS, Calif. — Flames ripped through a vast Southern California warehouse used by Amazon Friday morning.

The blaze broke out at the 1.1 million-square-foot warehouse complex in Redlands — east of Los Angeles County, near San Bernardino — some time around 5:30 a.m., FOX 11 reports.

Witnesses told the L.A. news station that about 100 workers had been inside the building when the fire ignited but everyone was safe and accounted for. No injuries were reported.

San Bernardino County Fire Department referred to the building as an Amazon Distribution Center, but a local official implied that Amazon did not own the building, while they do use its services.

“It’s a major structure fire at a warehouse, there are some Amazon trucks on the outside of it, it’s been reported that it’s a supplier to Amazon,” Redlands City Manager Charles M. Duggan Jr. told FOX 11. “It’s definitely not protest-related.”

Caltrans shut down freeways in the immediate area while crews tried to douse towering flames.

By 7:30 a.m., helicopter video showed much of the building’s roof had burned off, exposing hundreds of feet of burnt warehouse.

It was not immediately clear what started the blaze.

<https://fox5sandiego.com/news/california-news/massive-fire-ignites-at-amazon-distribution-warehouse-in-social/>

Video shows massive fire engulf an Amazon distribution center in California

Maddie Capron, Sacramento Bee

Posted: June 5, 2020



A fire ignited at an Amazon distribution warehouse in Redlands CA Friday morning, June 5, 2020. Media reports said about 100 workers were inside the facility when the fire erupted, and all got out safely.

An Amazon distribution warehouse is seen on video burning from a massive fire, California firefighters said.

The **San Bernardino County Fire Protection District** said on Twitter that a massive fire broke out at about 5:30 a.m. Friday at the third-party Amazon distribution center in Redlands, California, located more than 60 miles east of Los Angeles.

“It’s a major structure fire at a warehouse, there are some Amazon trucks on the outside of it, it’s been reported that it’s a supplier to Amazon,” Redlands City Manager Charles M. Duggan Jr. told FOX 11.

Duggan told the TV station that the fire is “definitely not protest-related.”

Amazon told CBSLA that no workers reported being injured. The company also expects “minimal” impact to customer orders, according to the news outlet.

“We are glad everyone is safe, and thankful for the efforts of the local firefighters and first responders,” Amazon told CBSLA. “This site was operated by a third party and we will support them throughout this process.”

On social media, people showed the huge clouds of smoke and massive flames of the fire.

<https://www.sacbee.com/news/california/article243309461.html>

Amazon Warehouse Fire Covers Redlands in Smoke

Staff Writer, City News Group

Posted: June 5, 2020



The fire quickly turned into a massive blaze.

Early Friday morning, about 100 employees were safely evacuated from a three-alarm fire of a third party Amazon distribution warehouse in Redlands.

The fire consumed the massive building crumbling its walls by 2 pm. The warehouse is operated by a third-party company that helps Amazon ship large items, according to the Redlands Fire Department.

Firefighters received the call of a commercial structure fire at the building at 2255 W. Lugonia Ave. at about 5:30 a.m. Friday, June 5, according to the Redlands Fire Department.

Around 7:30 am, **San Bernardino County Fire** reported that they were assisting the Redlands Fire Department in a three-alarm commercial structure fire at the Amazon Distribution Center.

“We are extremely grateful to our allied agencies for their support,” said Redlands Fire Chief Jim Topoleski.

The City of Redlands was blanketed by a cloud of smoke, at one point; California Highway Patrol closed the westbound freeway to early morning traffic, according the Redlands Fire Department.

According to the Redlands Police Department, by “late afternoon, the fire had been brought under control but several hot spots remained burning inside the remaining walls of the structure. With the structural integrity of the building a major concern, the building’s owners began plans to stabilize the structure and prepare to dismantle it, while firefighters planned to enter with them over the coming days to fully extinguish the fire and continue the investigation into the cause.”

At this time the point of origin is unknown and the cause of the fire is under investigation.

The building is owned by the Kuehne and Nagel Company, a third-party operator that helps Amazon ship extra-large items to customers and the damage is estimated at hundreds of millions of dollars, according to the Redlands Fire Department.

<http://redlands.citynewsgroup.com/articles/amazon-warehouse-fire-covers-redlands-in-smoke>

BURN PERMITS SUSPENDED IN SRA LANDS

Staff Writer, Z107.7 News

Posted: June 7, 2020

Calfire has announced the suspension of its burn permits and open burning effective 8 a.m. Monday, June 8. Calfire Chief Shane Littlefield said the suspension is “due to the extreme menace of destruction by fire to life, improved property, or natural resources caused by critical fire weather and acute dryness of vegetation.” The suspension of burn permits is effective in all state responsibility area lands. Campfires within organized campground or on private property, that are otherwise permitted, will be allowed if the campfire is maintained in such a manner to prevent its spread to the wildland. The burn suspension is in effect until further notice. The **county fire department** has not yet announced a suspension of burn permits.

<http://z1077fm.com/burn-permits-suspended-in-sra-lands/>

COUNTY SUPERVISORS BACK IN PUBLIC SESSION TOMORROW

Staff Writer, Z107.7 News

Posted: June 8, 2020

When county supervisors meet in San Bernardino tomorrow the proceedings will once again be open to the public, as will be the video conferencing center in the county government building in Joshua Tree. In all cases, strict social distancing will be required, as will face masks. Here's reporter Mike Lipsitz to tell us what's on the agenda...

At tomorrow's 10 a.m. meeting, the board is expected to approve a \$100,000 increase to the contract for crisis residential treatment services at Valley Star Behavioral Health in Joshua Tree. The \$12 million contract runs through June 2022.

The County's Mental Health Plan provides behavioral health treatment services for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness. As a result of an increase in need by consumers for these residential treatment services, the site provides crisis intervention for individuals diagnosed with mental health and co-occurring disorders including assessments, treatment plan development, collateral services, crisis intervention, medication support services, and individual and group therapy.

Supervisors are also expected to approve a \$31,235 contract extension to allow one probation officer to continue for one year at Morongo Unified School District. For more than 20 years, the Department has used various grants in combination with school district revenue to fund the services of school probation officers. These officers work with students and their families to provide necessary intervention/prevention services in response to problems that reach beyond the school setting and affect the student's academic progress. These intervention/prevention efforts often result in reduced student delinquency and improved classroom attendance and performance.

And then following a public hearing supervisors will consider updates to the contract with Burrtec Waste & Recycling Services for handling of organic waste made necessary since passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 1826 requiring businesses to recycle their organic waste and local jurisdictions to implement organic waste recycling programs to divert organic waste generated from businesses from landfills. The proposed amendments to the Solid Waste Handling Franchise Agreements will (1) add commercial food waste rates, (2) add an Organic Waste Recycling Program in all CFAs that includes outreach, education and monitoring, and (3) add/replace and revise certain exhibits.

Then a second public hearing concerns the **County Fire Protection District's** modified budget for 2020-2021 which includes a \$7.5 million increase for the fiscal year. The District is a community-based, all-hazard emergency services organization that covers approximately 19,000 square miles. SBCFPD provides emergency mitigation and management for fire suppression, emergency medical services, ambulance services, hazardous materials response, arson investigation, technical rescue including waterborne, flooding and mudslide, winter rescue operations, hazard abatement, and terrorism/weapons of mass destruction. SBCFPD also provides for the management of community safety services such as fire prevention, building construction plans/permits, and household hazardous waste.

While the public may attend in person, everyone is strongly encouraged to attend the meeting via the live video stream. You can access that stream by following a link at <http://www.sbcounty.gov/Main/Pages/ViewMeetings.aspx>

The following table displays the 2020-21 Recommended Budget for SBCFPD:

Budget Unit	2019-20 Modified Budget	2020-21 Recommended Budget	Increase (Decrease) in Budget
Requirements:			
Administration	\$30,296,597	\$37,402,708	\$7,106,111
Mountain Regional Service Zone	\$23,884,106	\$24,253,799	\$369,693
North Desert Regional Svc Zone	\$50,313,777	\$50,761,975	\$448,198
South Desert Regional Svc Zone	\$21,024,885	\$21,698,913	\$674,028
Valley Regional Service Zone	\$112,900,612	\$111,003,205	(\$1,897,407)
Hazardous Materials	\$9,848,031	\$10,060,866	\$212,835
Household Hazardous Waste	\$3,938,842	\$4,314,674	\$375,832
Office of Emergency Services	\$5,733,893	\$4,759,831	(\$974,062)
Cal-OES Grant Programs	\$3,868,209	\$8,250,811	\$4,382,602
Reserves	\$23,583,711	\$20,483,623	(\$3,100,088)
Total Requirements	\$285,392,663	\$292,990,405	\$7,597,742
Budgeted Staffing:			
Administration	255	252	(3)
Mountain Regional Service Zone	90	89	(1)
North Desert Regional Svc Zone	187	188	1
South Desert Regional Svc Zone	80	75	(5)

Valley Regional Service Zone	340	343	3
Hazardous Materials	48	48	-
Household Hazardous Waste	23	26	3
Office of Emergency Services	20	18	(2)
Total Budgeted Staffing	1,043	1,039	(4)

<http://z1077fm.com/county-supervisors-back-in-public-session-tomorrow/>