



NEWS



News Headlines 06/05/2020

- Massive 3-Alarm Fire Erupts At Amazon Distribution Center In Redlands
- Flames rip through vast SoCal shipping warehouse
- Smoke from warehouse fire in Redlands visible in the Victor Valley
- Victorville voters to see sales tax increase measure on November ballot
- Huge fire engulfs warehouse in Redlands
- TWO SUSPICIOUS FIRES THURSDAY NIGHT IN TWENTYNINE PALMS, WONDER VALLEY

Massive 3-Alarm Fire Erupts At Amazon Distribution Center In Redlands

Staff Writer, CBS 2 News

Posted: June 5, 2020



June 5, 2020. (CBSLA)

The blaze was reported at 5:30 a.m. at 2255 West Lugonia Ave., in the area of the 10 Freeway and Mountain View Avenue.

Video from the scene showed huge flames and plumes of black smoke shooting hundreds of feet into the air as Redlands Fire Department crews battled the blaze. It's unclear if anyone was hurt.

The **San Bernardino County Fire Department**, which was assisting in the response, reported that the building was a distribution center for e-commerce giant Amazon. There were several Amazon big rigs parked outside which also caught fire.

The 10 Freeway was shut down in both directions for several hours during rush hour, but has since reopened. In a statement to CBSLA, Amazon said that there were no reported injuries to its workers. It said the site is operated by Kuehne and Nagel, a worldwide transportation company that helps Amazon ship very large items. Amazon expected "minimal" impact to customer orders.

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

The exact circumstances and a cause for the blaze were not confirmed.

<https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2020/06/05/massive-3-alarm-warehouse-fire-erupts-amazon-redlands/>

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-socal/>

Smoke from warehouse fire in Redlands visible in the Victor Valley

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News Group

Posted: June 5, 2020



(Photo San Bernardino County Fire)

REDLANDS, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A 3-Alarm fire at a warehouse in Redlands sent black smoke billowing into the sky that was visible from the Victor Valley Friday morning.

The fire was reported at about 5:30 AM on June 5, 2020, in the area of Lugonia Avenue and California Street. Helicopters over the scene broadcasted images of several Amazon trailers next to the building also on fire. Heavy smoke from the raging fire prompted California Highway Patrol officers to briefly shut down the I-10 freeway in both directions.

VVNG member Harvey Jackson shared a photo of the black smoke that was visible from the Hesperia area. Carissa Zillner reported she could smell a chemical smell near Rock Springs Road in Apple Valley.

San Bernardino County Fire is assisting Redlands Fire with 5 engines, 1 truck, and 2 chief officers, according to a tweet.

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

<https://www.vvng.com/smoke-from-warehouse-fire-in-redlands-visible-in-the-victor-valley/>

Victorville voters to see sales tax increase measure on November ballot

Martin Estacio, Victorville Daily Press

Posted: June 4, 2020



Firefighters from the Victorville Fire Department battle a fire at a vacant restaurant building on Monday, March 16, 2020. Victorville voters will be asked to consider a one-cent sales tax increase in November 2020 to help fund public safety. [DAILY PRESS FILE PHOTO]

VICTORVILLE — City residents will decide in November whether to allow a one-cent sales tax increase which city officials say will be used to improve public safety and may go toward other uses as well. The City Council approved the proposed ballot measure Tuesday 4-1, with Council member Blanca Gomez voting no. If approved, the measure would raise the city’s sales tax from 7.75% to 8.75%.

An estimated \$15.95 million could be raised in additional revenues for Fiscal Year 2021-22, which city officials believe would make public safety services “more proactive, as opposed to it currently being largely reactive,” and lead to the hiring of deputies, firefighters, and code enforcement and animal control officers, a staff report read.

The approval came after the Council, at a May 28 meeting, were presented with findings that showed while demands for police, fire, code enforcement and animal control services have increased over previous years, the revenues needed to fund them have not.

“It was in fact a sobering report,” Council member Debra Jones said. “We are behind the curve.”

One statistic showed that while public safety expenses have gone up 351% since 2000, along with an increase in calls and population, the number of public safety staff had only increased about one-third.

That has brought an increase to residents’ wait times for some calls for service.

In 2008, residents who called 911 for non-emergencies — a break-in at a home, for example — waited 15 to 20 minutes for that call to be dispatched to a San Bernardino County Sheriff’s deputy. In 2019, that wait jumped to anywhere from 57 minutes to more than an hour.

City Manager Keith Metzler said the time it takes a deputy to arrive on scene can be even longer than that since they’re typically dispatched en route to a higher-priority call.

“We can clearly see that a lot of the residents that have complained about the response times growing,” he said. “We’ve been doing the best we can with the resources that we have, but the demand for the service has just outpaced what we can provide.”

The city is already estimating a more than \$800,000 deficit this year after unexpected costs to deal with the coronavirus.

In a report issued Tuesday, staff said without approval of the sales tax, maintaining the existing public service levels could lead to deficit spending in the amount of \$8.44 million.

Metzler mentioned the increase in the contract the city has with the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department as one of the financial hurdles.

But some at the meeting questioned how the funding would be used and whether voters would agree to the sales tax hike.

“My concern is accountability about the monies that will be approved,” Mayor Pro Tem Rita Ramirez said. As the revenues would be funneling into the general fund, she said she wanted to ensure the additional funding would go toward public safety and not “increases in salaries.”

The proposed ordinance that would take effect if voters approve the increase shows that the money would be used “to enhance public safety,” but it could also go toward improving and maintaining streets, repairing and maintaining public buildings like the city’s library, graffiti abatement and to “address and help eliminate homelessness.”

Gomez suggested “looking for other alternatives of community services for those public safety concerns and those performances,” especially amid civic unrest against police brutality in response to the death of an unarmed black man, George Floyd, in Minneapolis on May 25.

“A general tax does not necessarily mean that we’re going to earmark those fundings for what we have stated today,” Gomez said.

In 2017, a similar measure to increase the city’s sales tax by 0.50% came close but failed to reach the required two-thirds majority.

The argument then was similar: tax revenues being outpaced by rising contract costs with the Sheriff’s Department and aging fire equipment in need of replacement.

The County’s Fire union and the Inland Empire Taxpayers Association ran a campaign that opposed the measure, with the former believing the majority of funding would go toward law enforcement, according to Daily Press reports.

Victorville has since terminated its contract with the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** and restarted its city-run department last year for the first time since 2008.

Council member Jim Cox said the 2017 measure fell short by about 4% of the needed 66% because it was a special tax.

This November, the proposed general sales tax increase would only need to be approved by a majority of 50% plus one.

“We have a large number of people who come into the community and use the streets, use the police and fire,” Cox said of nonresidents. “This provides a way to have supplemental income paid for the people who need the services without putting the burden on the local residents and taxpayers.”

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20200604/victorville-voters-to-see-sales-tax-increase-measure-on-november-ballot>

Huge fire engulfs warehouse in Redlands

James Folmer, Redlands Community News

Posted: June 5, 2020



A massive fire engulfed a warehouse in Redlands on June 5. (Contributed photo by James Folmer)

A massive fire destroyed a warehouse this morning (Friday, June 5) in Redlands, briefly closing the Interstate 10 Freeway.

The fire was reported at 5:25 a.m. in the 2200 block of West Lugonia Avenue in a 600,000-square-foot building near Pharaoh's Lost Kingdom.

The **San Bernardino County Fire Department** originally reported on Twitter that the building was an Amazon Distribution Center, but later the Fire Department issued a correction and said the tenant was unconfirmed.

Television coverage showed massive flames engulfing the building and plumes of billowing black smoke. Truck trailers were seen ablaze on the loading docks.

"We're still looking to get the fire out," Carl Baker, a city spokesperson, told KTLA Channel 5 News. "It's down from where it was earlier, but still lots of smoke and flames. We're going to be here for several hours. It got pretty big pretty fast."

He said there were roughly 100 people inside the building when the fire broke out. There were no reports of injuries.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland_empire_news/huge-fire-engulfs-warehouse-in-redlands/article_0bf1879c-a750-11ea-ac46-a3eae6658f6.html

TWO SUSPICIOUS FIRES THURSDAY NIGHT IN TWENTYNINE PALMS, WONDER VALLEY

Staff Writer, Z107.7 News

Posted: June 5, 2020

Arson investigators from the Fire and Sheriff's Department were called to two suspicious fires in the Wonder Valley/Twenty-nine Palms area Thursday night.

About 9:15 p.m., Twentynine Palms and Joshua Tree firefighters were called to the 5900 block of Aztec Avenue in Twentynine Palms for an abandoned recreational vehicle that was on fire in the open desert. The arson is under investigation.

Then about 11:50 p.m., Twentynine Palms, Joshua Tree and Combat Center firefighters were called to a large shed fire in Wonder Valley Thursday night. **County Fire** Battalion Chief Donnie Vilorio said a neighbor in the 83400 block of Amboy Road called to report the Palms Restaurant was on fire just before midnight, but he added firefighters discovered the fire was burning a collection of sheds on a property nearby. The sheds, which were directly adjacent to each other, covered an area of about 100 feet by 100 feet, were fully involved in flames when crews arrived, and were a total loss. Firefighters were able to save the house and other sheds on the property. Vilorio said the fire is suspicious and under investigation because there were no utilities to any of them. These are the ninth and 10th suspicious fires in the Twentynine Palms/Wonder Valley area in six weeks, but it's unclear if this arson is related to any of the other fires.

<http://z1077fm.com/suspicious-fire-burns-sheds-in-wonder-valley/>