News Headlines 06/10/2020

- VIDEO: Wildfire near Interstate 15 and Cajon Pass in Hesperia chars 9 acres
- Fatal Collision on Hwy 330
- Firefighters extinguish vegetation fire in Fontana on June 8
- YET ANOTHER SUSPICIOUS FIRE IN TWENTYNINE PALMS EARLY TUESDAY MORNING
A firefighter sprays down brush on fire near Interstate 15 on Caliente Road in Hesperia on Tuesday, June 9, 2020. A vehicle fire started the wildfire, which burned more than nine acres. [MARTIN ESTACIO/DAILY PRESS]

HESPERIA — A car fire that quickly spread into nearby vegetation and sent up a thick plume of smoke near Interstate 15 on Tuesday burned about nine acres before being stopped by firefighters from three different agencies.

Firefighters responded shortly before 1 p.m. for a vehicle fire on Caliente Road, south of Ranchero Road, San Bernardino County Fire Battalion Chief Bill Mahan said.

“A few minutes later, we got a report of the brush catching on fire from that car,” Mahan said which prompted a “full wildland response.”

Winds pushed the fire south as it burned beneath crackling overhead power lines.

A Southern California Edison employee said company crews had cleared out thick brush underneath the lines about a year prior in the event of a wildfire. Ultimately, the lines were not burned.

An air tanker to drop retardant and a helicopter for water drops flew over the scene. Mahan said no drops were made though, likely due to nearby power lines.

Mahan said there was “a little bit of threat to the Shed World,” a business to the south when the fire was burning at its peak.

“But then we got engines deployed on that, right off the get-go so that kind of mitigated that,” he said.

County Fire tweeted the fire’s forward rate of spread had stopped at 1:53 p.m. The department later updated the size of the fire, dubbed the Caliente Fire, to 9.1 acres.

Mahan said San Bernardino County Sheriff’s deputies stood by in case nearby homes needed to be evacuated. In the end, no one was required to leave, he said.

More than 15 engines from County Fire, Cal Fire, and the U.S. Forest Service responded, plus water tenders, hand crews and a dozer.
County Fire said crews would remain at the scene for mop up and line construction for at least two to three hours “due to heavy fuels.”

Mahan said he was unaware what happened to the driver of the Mercedes convertible that started the wildfire and was destroyed.

Fatal Collision on Hwy 330
Cathy Herrick, Big Bear News
Posted: June 9, 2020

Big Bear News – Running Springs, CA – A full road closure on a section of Highway 330 today, June 9th, resulted in a single vehicle fatality. At approximately 10:44 am, a 52-year-old male from the city of La Mirada, California was driving a 2020 International Harvester box truck southbound on State Route 330 south of Forest Road 1N09 (at milepost marker 34.63). For unknown reasons, the vehicle appeared to suffer a brake failure and picked up speed as it entered a sharp left curve in the roadway. Due to the high rate of speed and loss of brakes, the driver was unable to negotiate the left curve. The 2020 international box truck struck the steel guardrail along the west side of the roadway, overturned and disintegrated into pieces as it flipped down the mountainside. The driver was extracted from the wreckage by San Bernardino County Fire and was transported to Loma Linda University by American Medical Response. The driver passed away at Loma Linda University at 4:20pm. Officer J. Holzberger from the Arrowhead Area Office will be handing the investigation.

https://kbhr933.com/current-news/fatal-collision-on-hwy-330/
The San Bernardino County Fire Department extinguished a vegetation fire in the 16900 block of Sierra Lakes Parkway in northern Fontana on June 8.  (Contributed photo by Mike Myers)

The **San Bernardino County Fire Department** responded to a vegetation fire in the 16900 block of Sierra Lakes Parkway in northern Fontana on June 8.

Firefighters, along with water tender truck 78, made quick work of extinguishing a half-acre vegetation fire that was burning in a field with light flashy brush at a slow rate of spread.

The fire was declared out at 7:42 p.m.

There were no reported injuries or damage to structures.

Fire Department officials remained concerned about the potential for fires to erupt because of the hot temperatures and breezy conditions.

The National Weather Service said that temperatures will be in the 90s in Fontana on June 9, 10, and 11 before descending back into the 80s during the weekend.

Sheriff’s arson investigators were called to a suspicious fire in northwest Twentynine Palms early Tuesday morning. Firefighters were called to the 68000 block of Winters Road about 3 a.m. where they found a travel trailer on fire in the middle of the road. Fire Captain Scott Tuttle said no one was around when fire crews arrived. The trailer was burned to the ground. This makes the 11th suspicious fire in the Twentynine Palms/Wonder Valley area in the last two months.

TWENTYNINE PALMS CITY COUNCIL HONORS A HERO, APPROVES VACATION RENTAL

Staff Writer, Z107.7 News
Posted: June 10, 2020

Daviahn Thrasher accepts a Meritorious award from San Bernardino County Fire Department Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle and Captain Jay Dimoff for his quick-thinking as a lifeguard. Thrasher saved a young woman’s life when she experienced a seizure and fell below the surface. Heather Clisby photo

Before a packed room of family and supporters all grateful for some good news, a shy teenager accepted one award and acknowledgement after another for his quick-thinking that saved a young woman’s life. Reporter Heather Clisby was there…

On May 27, his fourth day as a lifeguard at a Marine Base pool, 16-year-old Daviahn Thrasher rescued a woman who had suffered a seizure while swimming. At last night’s Twentynine Palms City Council meeting, Thrasher was the man of the hour and accepted awards from the San Bernardino County Fire Department, Supervisor Dawn Rowe, and the City of Twentynine Palms. As Thrasher’s parents and family beamed, each speaker offered letters of recommendation for any future job or college applications the young man might pursue.

The council discussed an application for a vacation home rental in Indian Cove neighborhood. Though the Planning Commission had received four appeals by neighborhood residents, the commission rejected those appeals and asked the council to approve the application, which they did so unanimously.

Concerned local resident Alex Garcia brought up the idea of capping off the number of VHRs allowed in the City. Mayor Joel Klink concurred, noting that there are over 600 in Joshua Tree, thus limiting available housing to residents. The Council agreed to revisit a VHR limit at a future meeting. The city now has over 100 registered VHRs in the city and about 70 of those are active.

The council easily approved Resolution 2009 which would send a request to Governor Gavin Newsom to allow the city to re-open remaining businesses such as hotels, bars, gyms, nail salons, movie theaters, youth sports, public pools, massage parlors, and tattoo shops.

The next two city council meetings will be cancelled due to the summer holidays. The next meeting is scheduled for July 28.