

NEWS



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Fire destroys one residential structure and damages additional structures in San Bernardino

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News Posted: January 29, 2020



Firefighters extinguished a fire in San Bernardino on Jan. 27. (Contributed photo by Mike Myers)

A fire destroyed one residential structure and damaged other nearby structures in San Bernardino on Jan. 27, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department.

No injuries were reported for firefighters or civilians, but a total of 14 occupants of the buildings have been displaced due to the incident.

At 9:15 p.m., the Fire Department responded to multiple reports of a residential structure fire in the 600 block of West Olive Street.

Upon arrival, firefighters were faced with a fully involved single story, single family residence. Energized power lines were down across the front of the property's chain link fence and closest fire hydrant. There were immediate threats to an adjacent home as well as a two-story apartment behind the burning structure. Based on this initial evaluation, the incident commander started a second alarm response.

The first priority was the protection of the adjacent properties. Due to the degree of involvement on the primary structure, a defensive attack was enacted for that building. The next door residence had begun to ignite from the radiant heat but was quickly extinguished by firefighters who limited the damage to the exterior of the home. Crews then extended their lines back toward the two-story building, which was now involved in fire.

While advancing hose lines to the apartments, firefighters were advised of a possible resident trapped in a second-story apartment. Truck companies coordinated their ventilation efforts on the roof above the involved apartment while engine crews made a hard push under heavy fire conditions into the unit. Searching for any potential victims, firefighters knocked down the bulk of the fire and were able to confirm that the upper residence was vacant.

One structure was a total loss, the initial fully involved building which was vacant but used by unauthorized occupants. Both adjacent structures received exterior and attic damage, with one affecting a room as well. The two story apartments to the rear received heavy damage to both second story units.

Ten engines, three truck companies, a medic squad and three chief officers totaling 45 personnel from County Fire were assigned to the incident. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland_empire_news/fire-destroys-one-residential-structure-and-damages-additional-structures-in/article_7ea6a6a0-41ed-11ea-89ef-478387bacaac.html

Stop the Bleed program offers potentially life-saving training, equipment

Saul A. Flores, News West / Needles Desert Star

Posted: January 28, 2020



Using a dummy limb, participants in the Stop the Bleed training program practice how to apply pressure on a wound. SAUL A. FLORES/News West

NEEDLES — Stop the Bleed, a registered trademark of the United States Department of Defense, trains people to be better prepared to save lives if people nearby are severely bleeding.

Stop the Bleed has been taught on 25 campuses in the Tri-state area. On Jan. 8 the 26th training was held at the cafeteria in the school campus complex along Washington Street in Needles.

"We have three more training sessions over the next couple of Fridays and we have hit every school in the area," said Lynn Lozada of Careflight/Air Methods. "We wanted to bring bleeding control kits to every single school because, in the event of a mass casualty situation or shooting, we go on lockdown. So if somebody is shot they're going to sit in that classroom until the police have told us that Emergency Medical Services can enter and render aid. So those first 10 to 45 minutes, the chances of that person surviving rely on the people in the classroom that are trained. That's why we are here training you because you are the immediate responders."

Raymond Proa of the Fort Mohave Mesa Fire Department said that three of the big things that they teach are how to apply a tourniquet; how to apply direct pressure and wound packing; and to be aware of where you are and how many people require medical assistance.

The Stop the Bleed campaign is supported by lots of agencies from around the Tri-state area. Fort Mohave Mesa Fire Department, Mohave Valley Fire Department, San Bernardino County Fire Department, San Bernardino County Sheriff Department, Golden Shores Fire, Bullhead City Fire Department, Baker Ambulance, Western Arizona Regional Medical Center, TRISTATE Careflight, Colorado River Medical Center, UMC Trauma, American Medical Response Las Vegas, River Medical AMR, Bullhead City Police Department, Mohave County Sheriff Department, Valley View Medical Center, ICSAVE (Integrated Community Solutions to Active Violence Events), Class Air Medical and Clark County Fire Department.

Lozada said that the San Bernardino County Fire Department, SBC Firefighters Association and Southwest Gas bought and paid for every single classroom in Needles to have a bleeding control kit.

Kits contain a pediatric tourniquet, C-A-T (Combat Application Tourniquet) tourniquet, packing materials, gloves, scissors, saws and more.

"If something like an active shooter would happen there is no one entity that can handle it," said Proa. "Putting everybody on the same page makes us run more efficient, otherwise we are being reactionary instead of being proactive."

There are a lot of benefits of taking the Stop the Bleed training but Proa said the biggest benefit is people being able to save a person's life.

"When we look at a lot of these shooting events they last about 10 minutes but we are getting there about 45 minutes after the event ended," said Proa. "So the people who have been taught how to put a proper tourniquet on others, they buy time until we can get there."

Proa said that they looked at the shooting that happened in Parkland, Fla., and out of the 17 that died, a lot of them had extremity wounds and not many had core wounds.

"A simple tourniquet or wound packing could have saved a quarter of those students," said Proa.

Lozada said that during the Las Vegas shooting at the Route 91 concert a lot of people were able to be saved because people who were there took the Stop the Bleed training.

"Over 400 people were shot and about 50 were lost because people took the courses," said Lozada. "People took off their belts to use as tourniquets and took off their shirts and used everything and anything they could. In Route 91 we had the most survivors because of the application and the skills."

After Stop the Bleed has gone to the remaining school campuses they are looking at doing a training once a week in different locations across the Tri-state area. "There is also good data that this program can be used for everyday life," Proa said, "because if people are out having fun on their side-by-side or going hunting, they can use the training to help their friends until first responders get to the scene."

http://www.mohavedailynews.com/needles_desert_star/stop-the-bleed-program-offers-potentially-life-saving-training-equipment/article_44f7a2be-4225-11ea-8434-d7731793f309.html

U.S. Evacuees From China Land at Air Base Near Riverside as Coronavirus Outbreak Grows

Lauren Lyster, CNN Wire / KTLA 5 News Posted: January 29, 2020

A planeload of hundreds of Americans who returned to the United States from the epicenter of the Wuhan coronavirus outbreak landed Wednesday morning at March Air Reserve Base in Riverside County.

Passengers will be quarantined for a period of time and will not be allowed to return to their homes immediately, according to a press release from the Alaska Department of Health, where the airplane from Wuhan to California stopped for re-fueling.

"Health officials in California are working diligently with the CDC and other partners to prepare for the passengers to arrive in California, where they will be re-screened and temporarily housed for a period of time," according to the press release.

Tuesday night, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in a statement that the passengers will be "monitored for symptoms post-arrival."

None of the 201 passengers are sick, and quarantining an entire plane of healthy people is "certainly unusual," said Dr. William Schaffner, a longtime CDC adviser.

"With SARS and Zika, we quarantined individuals, but not a whole airplane," said Schaffner, an infectious disease expert at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

It's not clear for how long or where the passengers will be kept in California. Originally, the flight was supposed to land at Ontario International Airport, and arrangements there were underway to keep them there through at least Sunday, according to a county official there.

Curt Hagman, chairman of the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, said Tuesday that an empty hangar at the Ontario airport was being outfitted with beds, phone chargers, and televisions so they could watch the Super Bowl game this Sunday.

Late Tuesday night, while the flight was en route to the US from Wuhan, it was re-routed to March Air Force Base, about 30 miles from the Ontario Airport.

In a video posted to YouTube, Hagman did not give a reason for the last-minute switch.

The decision to quarantine

Quarantining an entire planeload of people is unusual — but the circumstances surrounding the Wuhan coronavirus is unusual.

"There's much that is unknown about this virus, and so they're being cautious," Schaffner said. "I think this is consistent with good public health policy."

Most significantly, it's unclear if people who are infected with the virus, but not yet showing symptoms, can spread the disease. Chinese health authorities say asymptomatic people can spread the virus, but US health authorities say they've seen no data to suggest that.

The French, Australian, and South Korean governments are quarantining their citizens returning from Wuhan.

On Sunday, French Health Minister Agnès Buzyn said that when the French citizens fly home this week, they will be kept in one place to avoid any spread of the virus.

"In order to avoid any spread on the national territory, all the people who are being repatriated will be monitored by health professionals, and will be held for 14 days," Buzyn said.

On Wednesday, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, announced that Australians being flown out of Wuhan were required to stay quarantined on a remote island off the west coast of Australia.

"Australians departing on any flight arranged by the Australian Government will be flown to Christmas Island to undertake a period of quarantine of up to 14 days based on current medical advice as a condition of their assisted departure," according to a press release from the Prime Minister's office. "This will ensure we are also prioritizing public health in Australia."

In South Korea, citizens returning from Wuhan will be quarantined for 14 days in two government facilities, and will receive medical check-ups twice a day, according to a government statement.

Health authorities believe the incubation period — the time from exposure to the virus until the onset of symptoms — could be as many as 14 days.

Some experts think quarantining healthy passengers is the wrong approach.

Dr. Paul Offit, a pediatric infectious disease expert at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, said that when someone on an airplane is found to have influenza, fellow passengers are not quarantined.

"We don't do this for the flu, and it's known to cause 35,000 deaths in the US every year," he said.

He said quarantining the Wuhan passengers sends the wrong message — that a new, exotic virus from a faraway land is more to be feared than one that is in our midst.

"I can't understand why they're doing this. It doesn't make sense," Offit said. "I think it sends the message that this is a virus that is particularly to be feared, that it's more likely to cause deaths than say influenza, which isn't true."

https://ktla.com/2020/01/29/u-s-evacuees-from-china-head-to-march-air-reserve-base-as-coronavirus-outbreak-grows/

Flight from epicenter of coronavirus outbreak redirected to March Air Reserve Base in Riverside County

Steve Scauzillo, San Gabriel Tribune / Daily Bulletin Posted: January 28, 2020, 8:24 pm



Travelers wearing masks exit off of China Airlines flight 24 at Ontario International Airport after arriving from Taipei, Taiwan Tuesday Jan. 28, 2020. (Photo by Will Lester, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG)

A chartered jet carrying more than 200 passengers airlifted from the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak in China has been redirected from Ontario International Aiport to March Air Base Reserve in Riverside County, officials have confirmed.

Just hours earlier, ONT had been preparing to receive the jet, taking steps to provide temporary shelter for passengers upon anticipated arrival Wednesday.

Early Tuesday evening, an uneasy calm settled over the international arrivals terminal at ONT as China Airlines passengers from Taiwan arrived to hugs from family and friends. Most were wearing surgical masks.

Some passengers were concerned about friends, family and associates living or working in mainland China getting infected with the coronavirus and being sickened with what can cause a virulent strain of pneumonia. So far, the deadly germ has infected 6,000 people globally and killed more than 130 in China. Only five cases have been reported in the United States and none has died.

The State Department had announced a jet with 240 American diplomats leaving the Wuhan region of China, where the coronavirus outbreak began, would touch down in Ontario after a brief stop in Anchorage, Alaska.

Late Tuesday, San Bernardino County Supervisor Curt Hagman announced on social media that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had changed the flight path and redirected the plane to March ARB. Base spokeswoman Linda E. Welz confirmed the change.

"I want to thank all our first responders at Ontario fire, Ontario PD, all the officials and especially the county team that did amazing things to be prepared for this flight," Hagman said in a video posted to Twitter.

The passengers were to be quarantined at ONT in "a highly secure, contained facility isolated from other passengers and staff," an earlier airport statement read. Ontario airport officials said the Wuhan passengers would remain there "for however long is necessary," but that would be up to the CDC, the California Office of Emergency Services and the San Bernardino County Department of Health.

Jose Arballo Jr., spokesman for Riverside University Health System – Public Health, said late Tuesday that officials were conducting a conference call to discuss preparations for the plane's arrival at March ARB.

"We are working with state and federal officials with the idea that the plane in question could be arriving at March Air Reserve Base. We are working on the logistics and finalizing plans," Arballo said.

Meanwhile at ONT on Tuesday evening, Jane Chen, executive vice president of Markwins, a cosmetics company based in City of Industry, said she spent December in China on business. She stayed the next several weeks relaxing and "getting clean" in Taipei, Taiwan, until returning to Ontario.

"I am worried," she said through her white paper mask, while waiting by the curb for a ride. "Even two months later I'm still worried."

Chen said her colleagues in the United States did not want to travel with her. In fact, she's considering switching manufacturing from China to Mexico. "We may transfer production to Tijuana," she said.

Joseph Nassralla, a media executive from Rancho Cucamonga, got off the China Airlines flight with his mask in one hand and suitcase in the other. He said everyone in Taiwan was very aware of the outbreak on the mainland and were discussing it or reading about it on social media. He said "fake news" would pop up on his phone that exaggerated the public health threat, rattling his nerves.

"Some people just need to scare others," he said, adding that health authorities in Taiwan encouraged people to wear masks and wash their hands frequently. He described the people of Taiwan as "aware" but not alarmed.

Johnny Huang, waiting to pick up his friend from Rowland Heights, had read reports of the U.S. State Department hiring a chartered jet to airlift employees out of the consulate in Wuhan. That flight was on its way to Alaska Tuesday night, where passengers would be screened. Those with symptoms would be taken off the plane and brought to a hospital, authorities said.

Members of the Inland Empire and San Gabriel Valley congressional delegations were angered that they were kept in the dark about the airlift from Wuhan and said they were not getting specific information. Rep. Norma Torres, D-Pomona, learned about the plane coming to an Inland Empire air facility after reading this newspaper, she said. Torres led a bipartisan group of lawmakers in sending a letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar demanding answers.

"I want to make sure the HHS and the State Department does not withhold any type of information," Torres said during an interview Tuesday. She said the California delegation will be briefed on Wednesday on Capitol Hill. "I want real information on the status of people on that plane."

The letter, which is also signed by representatives Ken Calvert, R-Corona, Judy Chu, D-Pasadena, Gilbert Cisneros, D-Los Angeles, Grace Napolitano, D-West Covina, Mark Takano, D-Riverside, and Paul Cook, R-Yucca Valley, emphasizes the need for proper systems in place to protect local residents.

"Addressing a health threat like the coronavirus requires caution and communication, and we are urging the government for both," Chu said in the letter. "The evacuation of Americans in Wuhan is a relief. But we must ensure they are being given the appropriate screenings and treatments before full repatriation."

"With any health care emergency, it is critical to provide the public with clear and complete information," Calvert said.

The number of confirmed cases of coronavirus in China has jumped to 5,974, according to the government. At least 130 people have died from the respiratory illness — which belongs to the same family as the virus that causes severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS.

There have been no deaths outside of China, but more than 80 cases of infection have been reported in other countries, including five in the U.S., including one each in Los Angeles and Orange counties. Chinese authorities have quarantined major cities in the province, including Wuhan, where the virus emerged in December, to try to stop the spread, affecting some 56 million people.

The virus is believed to have come from a wholesale market where vendors legally sold live animals from stalls in close quarters with hundreds of others. Nearly two decades ago, SARS had a similar origin story, jumping from bats to Asian palm civets, and then to humans involved in the wildlife trade.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that circulate mostly among animals, including camels, cats and bats. Common symptoms in an infected human include a fever, cough and shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. Common symptoms in an infected person include a fever, cough and shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.

https://www.dailybulletin.com/2020/01/28/flight-from-epicenter-of-coronavirus-outbreak-redirected-to-march-air-force-base-in-riverside-county/