News Headlines 02/14 – 18/2020

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A fire damaged an apartment building in San Bernardino on Feb. 16. (Contributed photo by San Bernardino County Fire Department)

Fire crews were able to quickly contain an apartment fire in San Bernardino on Feb. 16, according to the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

Multiple units received fire, smoke, or water damage, but no injuries were reported.

The American Red Cross was requested to aid in temporary housing arrangements with five adults and two children.

The incident took place at 11:32 a.m. in the 1300 block of North Arrowhead Avenue.

Crews arrived in four minutes to find heavy smoke and fire showing from a second floor, end unit of a large multi-family unit apartment building. Crews immediately initiated an offensive fire attack, prioritizing evacuations and searches of affected apartments. Truck companies deployed to the roof, performing vertical ventilation to increase survivability in the apartments and to aid in containing the fire.

The blaze was knocked down in about 15 minutes and all searches of the apartments were clear. The entire first alarm of resources arrived on scene within 9 minutes of dispatch helping crews evacuate, search for victims and quickly suppress the fire.

The cause of the fire is under investigation, said Battalion Chief Mike McClintock.

"It is important to have a plan when there are children in your home," McClintock said. "Children sometimes need help getting out of the house. They may not know how to escape or what to do unless an adult shows them."

McClintock said families need to follow these steps:

• Have a plan for young children who cannot get outside by themselves. You will need to wake babies and very young children and help them get out. In your plan, talk about who will help each child get out safely.

• It is important to learn two ways out of every room in your home, in case one exit is blocked or dangerous to use.

• Remember, if there is smoke, you need to get low and go to your exits. So practice getting low and moving to your exits.

• Choose a safe meeting place a safe distance from your home. Children should know what to do when they hear a smoke alarm and there is no adult around. Help them practice going to the outside meeting place. Teach them to never go back inside a building that is on fire.
• Have a home fire drill at least twice a year so that everyone can practice what to do if the smoke alarm sounds.


CRASH NEAR LUDLOW SPARKS A GIANT BARBEQUE

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News
Posted: February 17, 2020

A semi-truck’s trailer containing 76,000 pounds of beef ribs caught fire Saturday night near Ludlow, causing westbound lanes of the 40 Freeway to be shut down for about two hours, authorities said.

The fire occurred when the rear wheels of a trailer ignited around 6 p.m., according to the San Bernardino County Fire Department. By the time firefighters arrived, the truck was disconnected from the trailer, which was fully engulfed in flames, spokesman Al Franco said in a written report. Firefighters said it was a typical truck fire but it had a “wonderful BBQ beef rib odor to it,” according to Franco’s report.


Hearing Feb. 19 on countywide fire/medical emergency services

Staff Writer, Chino Champion Newspapers
Posted: February 15, 2020

A public hearing on the countywide review for fire/emergency medical services and dispatch will be held at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19 at Norton Regional Event Center, 1601 East Third St., San Bernardino, by the Local Agency Formation Commission that oversees boundary changes.

A final review will be divided by the county’s regions. The Chino Valley is in the Valley region.


Mountain evacuation efficiency improved

Staff Writer, Inland News Today
Posted: February 14, 2020

CRESTLINE – (INT) – County fire officials are working to improve evacuation efficiency in the mountain communities ahead of the next wildfire season. It’s happening through the County Fire Hazard Abatement and Mountain Egress Project.

Fire department hand crews have started clearing flammable vegetation along essential evacuation routes that could become vital during an emergency.
The San Bernardino County mountain communities are home to thousands of people over approximately 450 miles of road.

The community risk reduction project will increase the ability of mountain residents to safely evacuate during an emergency, aid in reducing delays for first responders, and improve first responder safety when responding to emergencies. The project goal is to address all roadways that present a threat to safe evacuations.

County Fire hand crews have a mitigated total of 165 parcels in Forest Falls, Deer Lodge Park, and Cedar Glen, with the majority of the parcels located in Cedarpines Park near Crestline.