



# NEWS



## News Headlines 03/10/2020

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## YUCCA MESA HOME DESTROYED IN MONDAY MORNING FIRE

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: March 10, 2020



Fire crews arrived to find a single-story structure well-involved in smoke and flames in the Yucca Mesa neighborhood of Yucca Valley Monday morning. San Bernardino County Fire photo

A Yucca Mesa house is a total loss following a fire Monday morning. Fire crews from Yucca Mesa, Yucca Valley, and Joshua Tree were called to the 57800 block of Starlight Mesa Drive at 8:09 a.m. **County Fire Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle** said the house was well-involved with flames when crews arrived. Because large welding tanks were near the flames, fire crews mounted an aggressive attack on the blaze. Crews knocked down the flames quickly, but were on scene for about 2 ½ hours in salvage and overhaul operations. A grease fire on the stove was determined to be the cause of the fire. A firefighter was injured when he fell through the floor. He was taken to Hi-Desert Medical Center and sent home.

<http://z1077fm.com/yucca-mesa-home-destroyed-in-monday-morning-fire/>

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## RESIDENTS EVACUATED DURING SMALL FIRE AT ASSISTED LIVING CENTER IN YUCCA VALLEY MONDAY

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: March 10, 2020



Sheriff deputies and Yucca Valley firefighters responded to a small electrical fire in the crawl space Monday at Santa Fe Assisted Living. San Bernardino County Fire photo

The residents of an assisted living center in Yucca Valley had to be evacuated during a small fire at the center Monday morning. Sheriff's deputies were first on scene to the Santa Fe Assisted Living Center on Santa Fe Drive at 10:19 a.m. and smelled a strong odor of smoke and started evacuating the 57 residents to a nearby parking lot. **County Fire Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle** said crews determined there was a small, smoldering fire in the crawl space between the first and second floors over a common area in the home. The crews crawled up into the space to find the source of the fire, which was an electrical box. They then pulled down the ceiling to get access to the electrical fire so they could extinguish it. There were no injuries.

<http://z1077fm.com/residents-evacuated-during-small-fire-at-assisted-living-center-in-yucca-valley-monday/>

## **OAK HILLS Cannabis regulations topic at MAC meeting**

Staff Writer, Daily Press

Posted: March 10, 2020

During the March 17 meeting of the Oak Hill Municipal Advisory Council, representatives from San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department will share information regarding the cannabis use and cultivation regulations. The meeting takes place at 7 p.m. at Oak Hills Fire Station #40 in the Oak Hills Community Center Room, 6584 Caliente Road, Oak Hills. Agency representatives from County Supervisor Lovingood's office, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Zone J Water, CalFire and **San Bernardino County Fire** will provide updates and useful information regarding the status of the area, recent incidents, and future plans. Please share information about the meeting with your neighbors and plan to attend. RSVP at OHMAC2018@gmail.com. For information, visit [www.Facebook.com/oakhills.mac/](http://www.Facebook.com/oakhills.mac/)

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20200310/local-digest-march-10-2020>

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## **Mechanic working on semi injured after it rolls back**

Gabriel Espinoza, Victor Valley News

Posted: March 9, 2020

Halloran Springs, Calif. (VVNG.com) A mechanic who was working on a semi truck along the 15 freeway was injured after it rolled back.

At 10:33 p.m., March 9, 2020, **San Bernardino County Fire** responded to the northbound 15 Freeway 1-mile south of Halloran Springs, an unincorporated community in San Bernardino County, for reports of a vehicle versus pedestrian.

Per CHP logs, a service pickup truck and a green semi-truck with a white trailer were parked on the right shoulder.

When firefighters arrived, they determined the victim was a mechanic who was working on the semi tractor-trailer when it rolled back, striking the mechanic and his service truck.

The victim sustained injuries to his neck, back and head, scanner traffic reported.

A flat-bed tow truck was requested for the pickup that was hit, and the victim was transported by a ground ambulance to St. Rose Hospital in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The California Highway Patrol arrived on scene to conduct the investigation. No further details were immediately available.

<https://www.vvng.com/mechanic-working-on-semi-injured-after-it-rolls-back/>

## ROOF FIRE AT A JOSHUA TREE ART GALLERY

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: March 9, 2020



Roofers working at Taylor Junction Art Gallery in Joshua Tree caused a fire Saturday morning. **County Fire Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle** said workers were using a torch on the gallery's roof when a fire started about 10:20 a.m. Firefighters from Joshua Tree, Yucca Valley, and Yuca Mesa responded to the fire in the 61700 block of 29 Palms highway. It took them about 30 minutes to get the fire under control and were able to prevent the fire from spreading into the adjacent businesses. There were no injuries, and the cause was deemed accidental.

<http://z1077fm.com/roof-fire-at-a-joshua-tree-art-gallery/>

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## Helicopter crew rescues hiker after fall in Joshua Tree National Park

Staff Writer, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: March 9, 2020



Air Rescue 6 files into a rocky landscape in Joshua Tree National Park to rescue an injured hiker Saturday. San Bernardino County Fire Dept. photo

**JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK** — An Arizona man was rescued by helicopter when he fell while hiking in the Indian Cove area Saturday.

The sheriff's and fire departments teamed up on the rescue.

Harshad Kalyankar, 28, from Tucson, was hiking alone at 12:37 p.m. when he fell about 10 feet off a large rock, according to the Sheriff's Department.

Suffering from injuries that were not life-threatening, Kalyankar was able to call 911 on his cellphone.

Rescue workers from the **San Bernardino County fire** department, Morongo Basin Ambulance and the National Park Service responded to the scene.

They found Kalyankar and determined that based on his injuries and the terrain, a helicopter crew was needed to rescue him.

A rescue helicopter from the Sheriff's Department flew in, staffed with three air medics: Jim Fagleson, Melanie Munns and Stephanie Dvorak.

The pilot, Sgt. Daniel Futscher, hovered about 70 feet above Kalyankar as the crew chief, Reserve Deputy Wayne Hess, lowered one of the air medics to Kalyankar. The medic assessed his injuries and was able to place him into a rescue harness. Hess then hoisted Kalyankar up to the helicopter, followed by the medic.

The crew flew Kalyankar to Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs for treatment.

[http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article\\_feb27754-6234-11ea-a7ad-67ae7f53383a.html](http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_feb27754-6234-11ea-a7ad-67ae7f53383a.html)

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## **ARIZONA HIKER RESCUED BY HELICOPTER IN INDIAN COVE**

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: March 9, 2020

An Arizona hiker was rescued by a Sheriff's helicopter Saturday when he fell off a large rock in Indian Cove campground. According to a Sheriff's report, Harshad Kalyankar, 28, of Tucson, was hiking alone in the campground area when he fell about 10 feet from a large rock and sustained non-life-threatening injuries. Kalyankar called 911 to ask for help. **San Bernardino County firefighters** responded and confirmed that based on his injuries, a hoist rescue would be necessary. Sheriff's Air Rescue 6 responded and hovered about 7 feet above Kalyankar while an air medic was lowered. The medic placed Kalyankar in a rescue harness and he was hoisted up to the helicopter, followed by the medic. Harshad Kalyankar was taken to Desert Hospital in Palm Springs for treatment of his injuries.

<http://z1077fm.com/arizona-hiker-rescued-by-helicopter-in-indian-cove/>

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## **Man rescued from abandoned mine near Twentynine Palms**

Gabriel Kelvin, Daily Press

Posted: March 9, 2020



San Bernardino County Fire Department personnel check gear during a rescue effort at the site of an abandoned mine near Twentynine Palms on Sunday, March 8, 2020. Crews rescued a man trapped in the mine 15 hours after the operation began. [PHOTO COURTESY OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FIRE]

TWENTYNINE PALMS — **San Bernardino County Fire** Department search teams staged a daring and complex rescue of a man trapped in a remote mine over the weekend, authorities say.

Early Sunday morning, County Fire officials received a call from an unidentified explorer in a rural, unincorporated area of Twentynine Palms who had recently left a mine and reported that a partner was still inside and unable to get out.

According to a statement from the San Bernardino County Fire Department, multiple Urban Search and Rescue teams were deployed to handle the operation.

Rescuers had to drive off-road for 45 minutes to reach the mine and begin the operation. Three heavy rescue vehicles, three engines and a total of 35 staff were deployed to the scene near Gold Crown Road.

To reach the trapped man, rescuers braved significant hazards within the mine, including unsafe terrain, and high temperatures and humidity, officials said in the statement that described the 15-hour effort.

At the scene, members of the rescue team crawled through an entrance on their stomachs for approximately 50 feet. After this, they navigated a large drop by skirting around a 14-inch ledge.

Secured by safety lines, the firefighters then climbed down a separate, 200-foot drop on a wooden ladder. From there, they encountered another small gap with irregular height, which forced them onto their hands, knees and stomachs for another 150 feet.

Rescuers lowered themselves down another sheer drop with ropes before traversing a horizontal tunnel. They found the man at the bottom of an additional 90-foot drop at the end of that tunnel. The total distance the team traveled in the mine was estimated at over 900 feet, according to the statement.

A team of six rescuers used a system of ropes and pulleys to hoist the man out of the mine. While exhausted, he suffered only minor injuries and declined transport to a hospital. In total, the man spent roughly 20 hours in the mine, from late Saturday night to 8 p.m. Sunday evening.

County Fire officials warned that mine exploration is considered a dangerous activity and abandoned sites pose many hazards.

Since 1999, nearly 150 individuals have died in recreational accidents on abandoned mine sites, according to the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

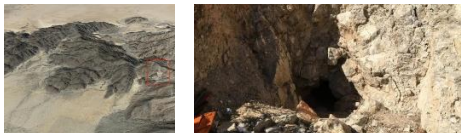
<https://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20200309/man-rescued-from-abandoned-mine-near-twentynine-palms>

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## LATE NIGHT ADVENTURE LEADS TO 20-HOUR RESCUE OPERATION

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: March 9, 2020



A map showing the area where San Bernardino County specialized firefighters spent 20 hours rescuing a Twentynine Palms man who climbed down 700 feet into a mine and then couldn't climb back out. San Bernardino County Fire photo

A midnight excursion in to the mines in the Old Dale Mining District east of Twentynine Palms ended with a 20-hour rescue after one of the men couldn't climb out of the 700-foot shaft Sunday. **County Fire** Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle said that the two Twentynine Palms men drove out to the mine to go exploring at midnight Saturday (3/7/20). The mine was a series of horizontal and vertical shafts that went down about 700 feet. When it was time to return to the surface, one of the men couldn't climb out. His buddy climbed out and drove to call for help. About 40 firefighters, who specialize in rescues like this, were called from all over the county; the Combat Center firefighters also sent a crew. Tuttle said it took 15 hours from the time they arrived at the scene (5 a.m. Sunday morning) to the time the man was brought back to the surface (8 p.m. Monday evening). Crews did not leave the scene until 1 a.m. Although he was uninjured, Morongo Basin Ambulance transported him to Hi-Desert Medical Center as a precaution.

<http://z1077fm.com/late-night-adventure-leads-to-20-hour-rescue-operation/>