



NEWS



News Headlines 03/12/2020

- Man who was recorded celebrating near house fire is arrested for arson
- No Local Cases of COVID-19 Reported, But County Declares Local Health Emergency to be Ready

Man who was recorded celebrating near house fire is arrested for arson

Stacy Moore, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: March 11, 2020

LANDERS — A 31-year-old man was arrested Tuesday afternoon on suspicion of setting fire to the house he was living in.

Davis Bouthavong is being held in the West Valley Detention Center on suspicion of arson and is due in court to be formally charged Thursday.

Witnesses who saw a man possibly setting a house on fire drew firefighters and sheriff's deputies to a home on Emerald Way and Juniper Street at 5:58 p.m. Saturday.

"We got reports of a male subject starting the house on fire and that he was basically yelling and acting inappropriately," **county fire** Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle said.

One of the witnesses to the fire, Matthew Owen Jenkins, works nearby. In a phone interview Tuesday, he said he saw smoke and then flames from a short distance away.

"I jumped in my truck and headed over there. I was going to see if there was anybody who needed help or if there were any animals inside," Jenkins said.

When he arrived, he saw the man later identified as Bouthavong.

"When I got there I saw that he was burning his own house down so I didn't want to get too close."

Jenkins said the man was standing on something behind a wooden fence so he was elevated as he looked at the house burning and shouted expletives.

"He was acting like he was happy and excited that his house was burning down," Jenkins said. "His behavior was so bizarre. He was screaming 'USA, USA,' and 'Let this f— burn.'"

Jenkins said he was most worried that someone was in the house, but he couldn't get close enough to check.

Jenkins said while he didn't recognize Bouthavong, a friend of his lives nearby and identified him as a neighbor.

"He was telling me he's always yelling and doing crazy things."

Jenkins a video of the incident and shared it on Facebook.

Warned about Bouthavong's behavior, firefighters asked for sheriff's deputies to respond, too.

"We requested law enforcement right away and we proceeded in cautiously with the plan that if he started acting out toward us we would contact law enforcement," Tuttle said. "But he was actually gone when we got there."

Engine crews from Yucca Mesa, Yucca Valley and Joshua Tree responded. The first crew arrived to find the house was fully involved in fire.

“We went to an aggressive fire attack and had the fire knocked down in about 15 minutes,” Tuttle said.

The home was completely destroyed by fire.

Detectives from the Sheriff’s Department investigated and determined Bouthavong had intentionally set fire to the house, which had been living in.

Deputies found him near the house and arrested him at 5:32 p.m. Tuesday, according to jail records.

In addition to arson, Bouthavong was also arrested for being under the influence of a controlled substance.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_a9646fa4-63bb-11ea-98bc-23656870c669.html

No Local Cases of COVID-19 Reported, But County Declares Local Health Emergency to be Ready

Steve Cassling, KBHR 93.3 & 102.5 FM Big Bear News

Posted: March 11, 2020

San Bernardino County, CA – Yesterday, the San Bernardino County Public Health Officer and the Board of Supervisors declared a local health emergency to help ensure county government and the public are prepared for the possibility that COVID-19 will appear within the county.

No local cases have been reported in the county, although cases have been identified in neighboring Riverside, Los Angeles and Orange counties.

“The purpose of this declaration is not to alarm people but to increase the focus on preparedness for both the public and county government departments and agencies,” said Board of Supervisors Chairman Curt Hagman. “The health risk to the general public in San Bernardino County remains low at this time.”

Various appropriate county departments and agencies have been working together since Jan. 25 to prepare for the possible arrival of the virus within the county. That is when the county was notified an aircraft carrying U.S. citizens evacuated from the region in China where the virus had originated might be arriving at Ontario International Airport. The flight was eventually diverted to Riverside County. The County Department of Public Health activated its Department Operations Center on March 3.

Among the county departments and agencies meeting regularly to coordinate efforts are Public Health, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, Office of Emergency Services, **County Fire**, Sheriff, and the Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency.

County Public Health continues to work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health to respond to reports of COVID-19. Although Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency to help the state prepare for broader spread of COVID-19, the health risk from COVID-19 to the general public in San Bernardino County remains low at this time.

As with any virus, especially during the cold and flu season, there are a number of steps you can take to protect your health and those around you:

–Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

- Wash hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth, especially with unwashed hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using regular household cleaning spray or wipes.
- If someone does become sick with respiratory symptoms like fever and cough, they should stay away from work, school or other people to avoid spreading illness and seek assistance from their healthcare provider if symptoms become severe.
- N95 masks are not recommended outside a healthcare setting. Surgical masks can be worn by sick individuals to reduce the likelihood of spreading germs to others.

For more information on COVID-19, please call (800) 722-4794 or visit the County Public Health COVID-19 webpage at <http://wp.sbcounty.gov/dph/coronavirus/>. Information is updated as soon as it is made available.

<https://kbhr933.com/current-news/no-local-cases-of-covid-19-reported-but-county-declares-local-health-emergency-to-be-ready/>