



NEWS



News Headlines 03/20/2020

- LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS PREPARED FOR COVID-19
- Man Drowns in Lake Gregory
- Hemet Council approves purchase of new front-line fire engine
- More events canceled by novel coronavirus worries

LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS PREPARED FOR COVID-19

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: March 20, 2020



First responders, such as firefighters/paramedics, are on the front lines in the COVID-19 pandemic, as they are called to help patients who may have been exposed to, or infected by, the coronavirus. Managing editor Tami Roleff explains how the first responders are protecting themselves...

County Fire Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle reassured the Yucca Valley Town Council at its meeting Tuesday that firefighters and paramedics are taking proactive measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and to keep first responders safe and healthy. The first steps are when people call 911.

“You call 911 and you talk to the dispatcher. They’re going to ask them questions. Do you have flu-like symptoms, do you have a fever, travel, been around anyone who’s traveled, if the patient has any high risk factors.”

He said the paramedics will take additional precautions before entering a home.

“We’re going to be coming in looking like some kind of a sci-fi movie. We don’t know at this point who has coronavirus and who doesn’t, so we’re going to have all our personnel in full personal protective equipment, including eye protection, N95 or N100 mask, gloves, latex gloves, and then possibly a Tivex suit or gown.”

While these measures may seem extreme, Tuttle said they have a two-fold effect.

“It reduces the spread of coronavirus and also keeps our first responders healthy.”

<http://z1077fm.com/local-fire-departments-prepared-for-covid-19/>

Man Drowns in Lake Gregory

Zev Blumenfeld, Mountain News

Posted: March 19, 2020, 12:00 pm



Zev Blumenfeld

A man died after driving his vehicle into Lake Gregory on Sunday, March 15. Twin Peaks Sheriff’s deputies and other emergency personnel responded to a report of a vehicle submerged in Lake Gregory. The vehicle was driven into the water in the area near Lake Gregory Drive and San Moritz Drive, according to a press release issued by the sheriff’s department.

The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department personnel entered the water by boat and piloted it to the submerged vehicle approximately 75 feet offshore. Deputies from the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s

Department dive team were requested and responded to the location. Two dive team members recovered the driver of the submerged vehicle. The driver was later identified as Franklin Lee Dauster. Emergency personnel from County Fire immediately began life-saving procedures to resuscitate Dauster. He was transported to a hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

The sheriff's department has not released the reason as to why Dauster drove his car into Lake Gregory.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is urged to contact the Twin Peaks Sheriff's Station (909) 336-0600. Callers wishing to remain anonymous are urged to call the WE-TIP Hotline at 1800-78-CRIME (27463), or you may leave the information on the We-Tip Hotline at www.wetip.com.

http://www.mountain-news.com/article_74e60b3c-6a11-11ea-9dc3-37b4db365472.html

Hemet Council approves purchase of new front-line fire engine

Tony Ault, Valley News

Posted: March 19, 2020

The Hemet City Council, after hearing a plea from the city fire chief, opted to approve the purchase of a new \$748,324 first line fire engine to replace an aging engine now in the repair shop and out of service.

Hemet fire Chief Scott Brown earlier made the request for the purchase with a promise to come back and provide the council with options for the purchase of the engine and the best one available. Tuesday, March 10, at the regular council meeting he reviewed the need for the purchase of the new engine that had not been previously fully budgeted in the General Fund or Measure U funds.

He said the department has seven fire engines and one aerial truck available for response each day. Two the engines are "reserve engines" to replace any front-line engines that might go down, like the one in shop now. He said the engines are designed to have a 10-year front-line life span. Two of those engines, Brown said, have over 185,000 miles on them and need to be replaced. Another of those engines will only have three to five years of use left.

He said it takes 11 months to complete the construction and delivery of an engine with which he said, "After this time, the cost of repairs and down time outweighs the purchase of new equipment."

He said the problem is the purchase of new engines has to be placed in future budgets if they have not already been authorized as with the current request.

He said, after first reporting the need to the council with more details, the department's appointed apparatus committee field tested KME and Pierce manufacturing engines and found the KME engine would be better suited for the department at a lower cost, including the equipment and outfitting.

"The KME apparatus specification requires little modification and provides best value for city funds. Furthermore, the **San Bernardino County Fire** apparatus specification mirrored the current Hemet Fire Department apparatus, which allowed the opportunity to piggyback on their competitive bid contract and avoid the need for purchasing to go out to bid. Therefore, the apparatus committee's recommendation is to purchase a new engine based on the specification provided by San Bernardino County Fire Department," Scott said in his report.

The council, after hearing about the different financing options, including buying the engine outright, decided to make a \$200,000 down payment and to borrow the remaining \$538,824 balance from another internal city fund.

Scott said the option entails utilization of city funds from the \$3,000,000 Fire Development Impact fund reserved for a future fire station in the recently approved McSweeny Ranch housing development to fund the purchase of the apparatus. The McSweeny DIF is set aside to build a future fire station, but it will not be needed for some time. The repayment of the loan and interest accrued would be paid from annual Measure U revenues.

The option, according to Scott and the finance department report would still utilize Measure U funds to purchase the apparatus, but the payments would be low enough so as to be handled by the ongoing revenues and not affect the overall fund balance. Both of the monies would generate interest.

The request was approved by a 5-0 council vote.

In other actions the council accepted the approval of allocations for 2020-2021 Community Development Block Grant entitlement and unexpended funding. Valley Restart won additional funding in the request.

The council approved the purchase of 911 phone hardware/software with electrical and data wiring movement and adopted a revised records retention schedule and records management program for the city and decided not to form an ad hoc committee to review the budget with the finance department giving monthly reports on the budget process to the open council.

<https://myvalleynews.com/hemet-council-approves-purchase-of-new-front-line-fire-engine/>

More events canceled by novel coronavirus worries

Staff Writer, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: March 19, 2020

MORONGO BASIN — Here is the latest list of cancellations announced because of the new coronavirus.

- The Mojave Desert Land Trust canceled all volunteer activities and has closed the office through April 17.
- The San Bernardino County Assessor-Recorder-Clerk closed its offices to the public until further notice. All services except marriage licenses and marriage ceremonies, remain available and processed by mail, email or phone. Marriage services will be discontinued until further notice. To find forms and other information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/vpl94hj> or call (877) 885-7654.
- The Johnson Valley Improvement Association is canceling Saturday breakfast service and postponing the Tailgate Swap Meet that was to be held March 21.
- The 18th annual spring Joshua Tree Music Festival in May has been canceled. Planners anticipate holding the 15th annual fall Joshua Tree Music Festival Oct. 8-11.
- The Yucca Valley Sunset Rotary canceled its 18th annual Dessert Soirée set for April 4. It will be held at a future date.

•Big Morongo Canyon Preserve is closed to the public until at least April 3 under direction from San Bernardino County.

•The Landers Moose Lodge will remain open unless members are notified. It will be closed on Tuesday and Saturday. The big room will be open and stools will be double spaced. They ask that you refrain from hugs and handshakes. The rooms will be cleaned and sanitized daily. All bands have been canceled until further notice. Food will be available for takeout.

Twentynine Palms closures:

The city of Twentynine Palms continues to take extra precautions and monitor federal, state and local guidelines with regards to the COVID – 19 pandemics.

The following are events and programs that have been postponed or canceled in the City:

- Dance and karate classes through park and rec have been canceled
- Adult Co-Ed Volleyball, which was due to begin soon will be postponed
- Little League – They are following the school’s timeline (April 20)
- Kickball which is held on Sundays at Luckie Park has been canceled
- Twentynine Palms swim team has canceled its Season
- San Bernardino County Fire** Department sponsored Easter Egg Hunt has been canceled
- JT55 Bike Ride scheduled for April 25 has been canceled
- Desert Oasis Car Show scheduled for May 7 is canceled
- Hilltoppers Motocross Races scheduled for March 28 – 29 has been postponed
- Theatre 29 has delayed its production of “The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe.”
- Senior Center is closed. Meals are being distributed to Seniors daily
- Knott Sky Park Preschool in conjunction with Morongo Unified School District is closed
- Youth Basketball Tournament scheduled for March 27-29 has been canceled
- Junior Tennis Program held at the Twentynine Palms High School has been canceled

For more information call the Park and Rec office at (760) 367-6799, option 2.

Palm Springs closure exemptions:

The Palm Springs City Council on Tuesday unanimously directed an emergency order telling all residents to shelter in place and limit activities to those essential to their daily lives.

“There is nothing more important than the health and well-being of our residents, workforce and visitors,” Mayor Geoff Kors said in a released statement.

The order also ordered all non-essential businesses in Palm Springs to close.

The order excludes 21 kinds of essential businesses, including grocery stores, health services, pharmacies, banks and gas stations.

Essential activities include:

- Tasks essential to maintain health and safety, such as getting medicine or seeing a doctor.
- Getting necessary services or supplies.
- Engaging in outdoor activity, such as walking or hiking, provided that you maintain at least six feet of distance between others.
- Caring for a family member in another household.
- Caring for the elderly, children, people with disabilities or other vulnerable people.
- Work providing essential services at an essential business or essential government function.
- Health care operations, including home health workers.
- Essential infrastructure, including construction of housing and operation of public transportation and utilities.
- Newspapers, television, radio and other media services.
- Grocery stores, farmers markets, food banks and convenience stores.
- Pharmacies, health care supply stores and health care facilities.
- Farming, ranching and fishing.
- Businesses that provide necessities of life for economically disadvantaged individuals and shelter facilities.
- Airlines, taxis and others providing transportation necessary for essential activities.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_2236a80a-6a1c-11ea-8583-d70035ed38b1.html