



NEWS



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WONDER VALLEY CABIN BURNED TO THE GROUND FRIDAY NIGHT

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: April 2, 2020



The cause of a fire at an abandoned cabin Friday was called suspicious, as there was no electricity going to the cabin. Tami Roleff photo

Firefighters are calling a fire at a Wonder Valley abandoned homestead cabin Friday suspicious. Just before 5 p.m. Friday, firefighters from Twentynine Palms, Joshua Tree, Yucca Valley, and the Combat Center, as well as a water tender crew, were called to the blaze at McAndrew and Highway 62, about 17 miles east of Twentynine Palms. The cabin was burned to the ground. **County Fire** Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle said there were no utilities to the vacant cabin. Fire engines from the Combat Center and Twentynine Palms became stuck in the sandy road leading to the cabin, and Tuttle had to call for a county bulldozer to tow out the engines.

Twentynine Palms firefighters were called back to the scene about 5:20 Sunday afternoon for a vegetation fire; crews found smoldering trees. The cause of the blaze is still under investigation.

<http://z1077fm.com/wonder-valley-cabin-burned-to-the-ground-friday-night/>

COUNTY SUPERVISORS FACING A BALLOT INITIATIVE TO REPEAL FP-5 FIRE TAX

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: April 6, 2020

No county action in recent memory has raised the ire of property owners like the \$157 per parcel special fire tax imposed following a dubious “protest vote” in 2018. Now the measure, which has survived multiple lawsuits and attempted court injunctions, will go back to the voters possibly as soon as this July. Reporter Mike Lipsitz is here with details...

On one of the last agenda items at tomorrow’s 10 a.m. meeting of county supervisors, the registrar of voters will present the certified ballot initiative calling for repeal of the special tax associated with Fire Protection Service Zone Five. A voter petition effort organized by the non-profit Red Brennan Group gathered more than 34,000 signatures forcing the issue back to voters in a legitimate election. County supervisors must now decide whether to put the repeal initiative on the ballot at the November 3 presidential election or hold a special election either this July 7 or 14.

Tomorrow’s meeting takes place at the County Government Center in San Bernardino, but like nearly every aspect of present day life, the coronavirus is forcing a number of modifications to county government routines. Specifically, the public is invited to attend tomorrow’s meeting only via live internet streaming video. Comments may be made via email only.

The regular live teleconference at the County Government Center in Joshua Tree will not take place tomorrow.

Based on guidance from the California Department of Public Health, the Governor's Executive Order and Office and the San Bernardino County Public Health Officer, you may observe a live stream of the Board meeting at <http://www.sbcounty.gov/Main/Pages/ViewMeetings.aspx>; No live public access is otherwise available.

To comment on a specific agenda item prior to the meeting, submit your comments via email or online by 8 a.m. the day of the Board meeting. Submit comments to the Clerk of the Board via email at BoardMeetingComments@cob.sbcounty.gov or online at <http://www.sbcounty.gov/cob/publiccomments/default.aspx>. Your comments will be placed into the record at the meeting.

If you are watching the live stream of the meeting and wish to make a general public comment or to comment on a specific agenda item as it is being heard, submit your comment of 250 words or less to the Clerk of the Board at <http://www.sbcounty.gov/cob/publiccomments/default.aspx>. Efforts will be made to read comments into the record, but some comments may not be read due to time limitations. Comments received after an agenda item will be made part of the record if received prior to the end of the meeting.

<http://z1077fm.com/county-supervisors-facing-a-ballot-initiative-to-repeal-fp-5-fire-tax/>

Sheriff's Air Rescue 6 hoists injured hiker to safety

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Redlands Community News

Posted: April 5, 2020

The San Bernardino County sheriff's Air Rescue 6 hoisted a 29-year-old Victorville woman to safety after she fell a ledge on Heart Rock Trail Thursday afternoon in Crestline.

At about 1:30 p.m. April 2, Stacy Contreras slipped and fell approximately 30 feet off a ledge and sustained non-life-threatening injuries. She was unable to hike out and was in need of medical care. A friend called 911 on her mobile phone to request assistance.

San Bernardino County Sheriff and Fire Department personnel responded to the scene. Sheriff's patrol helicopter 40King3 arrived at the reported location and located Contreras in a remote area within the San Bernardino National Forest. The helicopter crew confirmed Contreras was injured and requested the assistance of Sheriff's Air Rescue 6 for a hoist rescue.

Sheriff's Air Rescue 6 responded to the area to conduct the hoist. They hovered approximately 220 feet above Contreras and the crew chief lowered a rescue medic to her location. The rescue medic assessed Contreras' injuries and was able to secure her into a rescue harness. The crew chief then hoisted Contreras up to the helicopter, followed by the medic.

Air Rescue 6 transported Contreras to a local trauma center for treatment of her injuries.

https://www.redlandscommunitynews.com/news/public_safety/sheriffs-air-rescue-6-hoists-injured-hiker-to-safety/article_4193f874-778c-11ea-9f9a-77ca8ed7eecf.html

Woman is rescued by helicopter after being injured while hiking in Crestline

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: April 4, 2020

A woman who was injured while hiking in Crestline was rescued by San Bernardino County personnel in a helicopter, according to the county's Sheriff's Department.

On April 2, the 29-year-old woman from Victorville was hiking the Heart Rock Hiking Trail when she slipped and fell about 30 feet off a ledge and sustained non-life threatening injuries. Because of her injuries, she was unable to hike out and was in need of medical care. A friend of the woman called 911 on her mobile phone to request assistance.

Sheriff and **Fire** Department personnel responded to the scene. Sheriff's patrol helicopter 40King3 arrived at the reported location and located the woman in a remote area within the San Bernardino National Forest. The helicopter crew confirmed the woman was injured and requested the assistance of Sheriff's Air Rescue 6 for a hoist rescue.

Sheriff's Air Rescue 6 responded to the area to conduct the hoist. The helicopter hovered about 220 feet above the woman and the crew chief lowered a rescue medic to her location. The rescue medic assessed the woman's injuries and was able to secure her into a rescue harness. The crew chief then hoisted her up to the helicopter, followed by the medic.

Air Rescue 6 transported the woman to a local trauma center for treatment of her injuries.

The crew members were Pilot Sergeant Daniel Futscher, Crew Chief Deputy Dave Negron, Fire Captain Jay Hausman, and Fire Paramedic Jason Williams.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland_empire_news/woman-is-rescued-by-helicopter-after-being-injured-while-hiking-in-crestline/article_47f3e66e-75ef-11ea-8e87-3f0958dbc5b5.html

Mother and son arrested in connection to “accidental” shooting of Hesperia woman

Hugo Valdez, Victor Valley News

Posted: April 4, 2020



Mercy Air landed at Oak Hills High School and airlifted the victim to a trauma center. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, VVNG.com)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A 20-year-old Hesperia man and his mom were arrested after allegedly attempting to cover up a shooting that left a woman paralyzed, officials said.

VVNG first reported on the alleged accidental shooting investigation that resulted in a woman being airlifted from the parking lot of Oak Hills High School earlier this week.

The 22-year-old female victim told police she had inadvertently shot herself at a residence in the 15000 block of Mission Street, sheriff's officials stated.

Deputies at the scene determined the evidence suggested otherwise and turned the investigation over to the Hesperia Stations Detective Bureau and Multiple Enforcement Team.

A search warrant was served at the victim's boyfriend, Joseph Bautista-Lares' Hesperia residence.

"During the investigation, Detectives learned Joseph shot the victim and with help from his mother, Marisol Lares, he fled the scene," stated sheriff's officials. "Marisol then proceeded to wipe the firearm down in [an] attempt to remove fingerprints and staged the gun near the victim before deputies arrived."

On Friday, April 3, 2020, deputies contacted 42-year-old Marisol and Joseph and they were arrested. Both were booked into High Desert Detention Center for PC 245(A)(2), assault with a firearm. In addition, Marisol was booked for PC 136.1(A)(1), dissuading a victim/witness and PC 32, accessory.

Officials said the victim survived her injuries but is paralyzed.

Anyone with information about this investigation is asked to contact the Hesperia Police Department at (760) 947-1500 or Sheriff's Dispatch at (760) 956-5001.

Callers wishing to remain anonymous are urged to call the We-Tip Hotline at 1-800-78CRIME (27463) or you may leave information on the We-Tip website at www.wetip.com.

<https://www.vvng.com/mother-and-son-arrested-in-connection-to-accidental-shooting-of-hesperia-woman/>

New Assistant Chief of Training & Safety

Tracey Martinez SBCoFD, Public Information Officer, City News Group

Posted: April 3, 2020, 8:40 pm



Interim Assistant Chief, Grant Hubbell.

San Bernardino County Fire Chief Dan Munsey is pleased to announce the assignment of Grant Hubbell to Interim Assistant Chief leading our elite EMS, Training & Safety Division, as well as overseeing the department's Support Services Division.

"Chief Hubbell demonstrates the skills and knowledge we seek in our chief officers," Fire Chief Dan Munsey stated. "His wealth of knowledge and leadership will continue to advance our EMS and training division well into the future."

Chief Hubbell joined the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District on July 1, 2016 as part of the San Bernardino City Fire Department annexation. Chief Hubbell began his fire service career in October 1992 when he was appointed to the San Bernardino City Fire Department as a Firefighter Paramedic. He has worked his way through the ranks of Captain in 2003, Battalion Chief in 2014, and Division Chief in 2020.

Chief Hubbell responded to the December 2, 2015 mass shooting/terrorist attack at the Inland Regional Center (IRC) in the City of San Bernardino. He served as the initial Fire Department Incident Commander and directed the strategic and tactical response to the emergency; receiving several accolades for his efforts.

Chief Hubbell has a Master of Science degree in Leadership with an emphasis in Executive Fire Leadership and Disaster Preparedness, a Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Health and Safety, and an Associate's degree in Fire Service Leadership. Chief Hubbell also holds numerous certifications in fire studies and has completed the County's Management Leadership Academy - Executive Development Program as well as the Los Angeles Fire Department Leadership Academy.

In August 2017, Chief Hubbell was selected to the FIRESCOPE Task Force; where he has served in the capacity of Secretary on the board for 2 years, and serves as the Liaison for the Emerging Information Technologies (EIT) Specialist Group.

Chief Hubbell and his wife Eva have two grown daughters, Ashley and Sarah and have made their home in Corona. Grant and Eva enjoy spending time traveling.

<https://www.citynewsgroup.com/articles/new-assistant-chief-of-training-safety>

Virus cases up in county, Chino Valley

Staff Writer, Chino Champion News

Posted: April 4, 2020

Chino has 11 and Chino Hills 10 positive cases of coronavirus as of Thursday evening, according to the county.

Although the county is now listing confirmed cases of the virus by city, it is not listing deaths by location.

The Champion learned earlier this week that a man in his 60s died Sunday at Chino Valley Medical Center in Chino after testing positive for coronavirus March 24. His city of residence was not disclosed because of privacy laws. The hospital is currently treating seven confirmed coronavirus cases, according to CEO Tim Moran.

As of Thursday, San Bernardino County had confirmed 304 cases and eight deaths related to the coronavirus outbreak. This time last week, the county reported 55 positive cases and three deaths.

The county conducted its second drive-thru testing site in Victorville on Thursday. Its first drive-thru was held March 27 at the National Orange Show grounds in San Bernardino.

Positive cases in the county by location are: Adelanto 3, Alta Loma 2, Apple Valley 3, Barstow 6, Big Bear City 1, Big Bear Lake 3, Bloomington 3, Blue Jay 2, Chino 11, Chino Hills 10, Colton 4, Crestline 1, Fontana 25, Grand Terrace 1, Hesperia 4, Highland 11, Loma Linda 7, Mentone 2, Montclair 4, Oak Hills 1, Ontario 14, Phelan 1, Rancho Cucamonga 25, Redlands 19, Rialto 12, Rimforest 1, Running Springs 2, San Bernardino 15, Upland 14, Victorville 9, Wrightwood 1, Yucaipa 68, Yucca Valley 2, undetermined locations, 17.

Cities not listed had zero confirmed cases as of the last update.

On Thursday, the county released a statement advising people to use face coverings when leaving home to conduct essential businesses such as grocery shopping, going to a medical appointment or visiting a pharmacy to help flatten the curve of the coronavirus.

The county made the recommendation this week after reviewing guidance released April 1 from the California Department of Public Health.

Face coverings may include coverings that secure to the ears or back of the head and encompass the mouth and nose. Homemade cloth ear loop covers, bandanas and handkerchiefs may be used to reduce the spread of coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, particularly among asymptomatic people.

“Staying home, practicing social distancing and frequent handwashing are far more effective ways to combat the spread of COVID-19, and face coverings are not a substitute for continuing those practices,” said Acting County Public Health Officer Dr. Erin Gustafson.

“Surgical masks and N95 masks should not be used because they must be preserved for healthcare workers and emergency responders,” Dr. Gustafson said. “If you do use a face covering, make sure to practice frequent hand washing before and after touching and adjusting the covering.”

County medical officials recommend washing cloth face coverings frequently after each use — at least daily.

They said to place face coverings in a bag until washing them in detergent with hot water and dried on a hot cycle. They also said to discard cloth masks that no longer cover the nose and mouth or have holes.

t stay on the face, and have holes or tears in the fabric.

“Covering your face may help reduce the chance that asymptomatic people spread COVID-19. This is not as effective as staying home and practicing social distancing,” said Curt Hagman, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, whose Fourth District includes Chino and Chino Hills. “We all need to do our part to flatten the curve and residents should use this as one more tool to stop the spread of this disease.”

Nearly all county departments will continue offering services only online and over the phone until the coronavirus emergency concludes and the County Health Officer and the governor lift orders restricting gatherings and directing people to stay home whenever possible.

Information about the county’s efforts regarding the coronavirus is available online at sbccovid19.com, via email at coronavirus@dph.sbcounty.gov, or by phone at 387-3911.

“We have a responsibility to do everything we can to limit the spread of the virus while still providing access to the county services people need, said Board of Supervisors Chairman Curt Hagman, whose 4th District includes Chino and Chino Hills.

Services of the following county departments and offices will be available only by phone and online (offices will be closed to the public): Agriculture/Weights & Measures, Assessor-Recorder-Clerk, Child Support Services, Children’s Network, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, Community Development and Housing Agency, **County Fire** and Fire Marshal, District Attorney, Economic Development, Human Resources, Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency, Land Use Services (which includes Planning, Building and Safety, and Code Enforcement), Public Defender, Public Works (with the exception of lobby computer access to surveyor records), Purchasing, Registrar of Voters (with those exception of election observers by appointment only), Risk Management, Special Districts Water and Sanitation, Transitional Assistance, Veterans Affairs, Workforce Development (in person appointments will be conducted only when necessary).

The following county attractions and services are closed to the public until the indefinite health orders are lifted: preschool services (Head Start), Big Bear Alpine Zoo at Moonridge, county branch libraries, county museums and historical sites, county regional parks including Calico Ghost Town, Park and Recreation District Preschool in Joshua Tree, all Big Bear Valley Recreation and Park District parks, all county service area parks, Oak Glen Park and Museum and North Etiwanda Preserve.

https://www.championnewspapers.com/news/article_e1d3a674-75d7-11ea-916f-9f0c6299bfbc.html

15 San Bernardino County employees have tested positive for coronavirus

Sandra Emerson, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: April 3, 2020, 4:02pm

Fifteen San Bernardino County employees have tested positive for the novel coronavirus since last week, county officials confirmed Friday, April 3.

The employees include nine who work in public safety, including five already reported by the sheriff's department and one by the **fire protection district**, and six who work in health and human services, county spokesman David Wert said.

The county could not disclose the specific divisions or offices where the employees work to protect the privacy of employees, he said.

However, public safety also includes probation, the District Attorney's Office and Public Defender's Office. Health and human services encompasses several departments, including Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, public health, behavioral health, children and family services, child support services, veterans affairs and the Transitional Assistance Department.

Aside from sheriff's and fire departments and the medical center, Wert said the county employees who tested positive did not have positions that required interacting with the public.

Whenever there's a positive case, employees of that department are notified and the area is sanitized, Wert said. Employees are allowed to telecommute or use leave time to stay at home and not work.

"The county relaxed leave options," Wert said. "They can take a variety of different types of leave if they just don't feel safe at work but don't want to work at home."

The county has also provided hand sanitizer and rearranged offices to allow for social distancing, Wert said.

Employees who feel unwell are told to stay home, even before the pandemic.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2020/04/03/15-san-bernardino-county-employees-have-tested-positive-for-coronavirus/>

Forces Joined to Combat Coronavirus

Steve Tracy, SBCoFD, Public Information Officer, Redlands City News

Posted: April 3, 2020, 9:55 pm



The County will have 18 agencies working to keep the communities safe.

In their ongoing effort to best serve the public during the COVID-19 crisis, **San Bernardino County fire** agencies have joined forces. Strategies most commonly seen when battling large wildfires are being used to tackle this new threat.

On Friday, March 6, San Bernardino County Fire Protection District activated its Incident Management Team (BDC-IMT-1) to identify a plan to manage exposed and/or sick members of its agency, to ensure responders have necessary personal protective equipment (PPE), and to maintain consistent communication with its cooperators.

After seeing the impact that COVID-19 has had on communities affected in previous weeks, multiple fire agencies throughout San Bernardino County united with the goal of maintaining uninterrupted service to the citizens of our county. BDC-IMT-1 has now expanded its mission to incorporate 18 cooperating agencies making the BDC-IMT a regional incident management Team. This regional approach reflects the cooperative nature of this endeavor. (XBO and BDC are the CalOES identifiers for the San Bernardino County Operational Area and San Bernardino County Fire District).

COVID-19 has the possibility of affecting a significant portion of the fire and EMS workforce. In response, eighteen separate fire agencies are now united to ensure consistent service regardless of jurisdiction. As the virus establishes itself within our county, citizens may see fire apparatus from other departments responding in their communities and even firefighters from different agencies on the same engine company. This will be an example of this partnership most visible to the public. Additionally, a worldwide shortage of PPE has placed these supplies at a premium. The unity of agencies ensures a reliable distribution of equipment as it becomes available. Again, PPE's are used to protect both the public and our first responders.

"This is a collaborative effort that we have used effectively in numerous natural disasters," says Kathleen Opliger, San Bernardino County Fire Deputy Chief of Operations, and Incident Commander for XBO-IMT-1. "COVID-19 is different from fires or floods in that it is a hazard that simultaneously threatens both the public and our first responders."

The following fire agencies are coordinating in the countywide response plan:

San Bernardino County Fire Protection District --- Morongo Valley Fire

Apple Valley Fire District --- Ontario Fire Department

Barstow Fire Department --- Rancho Cucamonga Fire District

Big Bear Fire Authority --- Redlands Fire Department

Cal Fire - San Bernardino Unit --- Rialto Fire Department

Chino Valley Fire District --- Running Springs Fire Department

Colton Fire Department --- San Manuel Fire Department

Loma Linda Fire Department --- Victorville Fire Department

Montclair Fire Department --- Yermo Fire Department

San Bernardino County Team 1 is a type 3 all-hazard incident management team which deploys as a team of trained personnel, representing multiple disciplines who manage major and/or complex incidents requiring a significant number of local, state or tribal resources. They manage incidents that extend into multiple operational periods and require a written Incident

<http://redlands.citynewsgroup.com/articles/forces-joined-to-combat-coronavirus>

Coronavirus complicates California wildfire preparation, raising worry over evacuation shelters

JOSEPH SERNA, Los Angeles Times

Posted: April 3, 2020, 12:37 pm



Evacuees from the Camp fire arrive at a shelter in Butte County in 2018. The American Red Cross has designed new shelter protocols in the face of the coronavirus. (Peter Dasilva / EPA/Shutterstock)

With the traditional start of California’s dreaded wildfire season approaching, the spread of the coronavirus has threatened to complicate state firefighting efforts.

Although top emergency officials say they are hopeful that the spread of COVID-19 will taper off by the time serious fire weather arrives in the fall, the outbreak has already forced departments to put large training exercises on hold, cancel controlled burns and delay inspections of fire-prone properties in Los Angeles.

Of greatest concern to American Red Cross officials is preventing the spread of illness at evacuation centers, which can quickly grow crowded with evacuees of all ages.

Another question is how battalions of firefighters might guard against the pathogen while battling flames in close formations, or while eating and sleeping in fire base camps that were notorious for outbreaks of “camp crud” even before the pandemic.

“If it were to happen this minute, we’re really going to have to step it up to have more facilities so we don’t have more folks crammed in there at the end of the day,” said Kim Zagaris of the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services.

However, Zagaris, who was pulled out of retirement to help deal with the coronavirus outbreak, said he hoped that statewide social distancing orders would limit the effects of the coronavirus months from now. “We’re all in the same boat and hoping that — at least here in California — that we got folks working from home, staying at home, that we’ll get out of this a little sooner than the other folks have,” he said.

In just the last few years, California has experienced some of its deadliest and most destructive wildfires on record, and officials say climate change is increasing the likelihood of such devastating blazes in the future. These larger fires have required ever larger numbers of firefighters who travel throughout California or come from other states to assist.

Under such circumstances, illnesses can be spread from fire incident to fire incident as personnel are reassigned, according to the National Wildfire Coordinating Group. “Wildland fire incident management activities create an ideal environment for the transmission of infectious diseases: high-density living and working conditions, lack of access to and use of soap and sanitizers, and a transient workforce,” according to a guidance published by the group’s Emergency Medical Committee.

Similar concerns are shared by the Red Cross.

“We will only open a shelter if health officials think it’s safe to do so and we’re taking every precaution,” said Trevor Riggen, senior vice president of disaster cycle services for the American Red Cross.

Those precautions would start the moment evacuees arrive at the shelter, where they’d find workers wearing protective gear.

All arriving evacuees would have their temperature taken before entering — if they’re running a fever, they’d be taken to a different area for isolation away from the rest of the evacuated community, Riggen said. Those who are allowed in would still have their temperature taken three times a day, like the shelter workers.

Inside, there will be extra hand-washing stations, while sleeping cots will be six feet apart. Meal times for evacuees will be staggered to avoid crowding.

“As COVID-19 became more prevalent, we have been planning for some level of spread in the U.S. and so we’ve been working the last couple of weeks as it’s taken hold,” Riggen said.

If an evacuee does show symptoms of an infection, the person would be isolated and county public health workers would take it from there.

The outbreak has caused other changes as well.

Recently, the U.S. Forest Service announced that all prescribed burns in California were canceled to minimize smoke exposure for those already vulnerable to COVID-19.

Prescribed, or controlled, burns involve the deliberate burning of wildland to reduce the amount of plant matter that can fuel larger fires’ spread. The technique is most often used in the northern part of the state.

Also, a refresher training session on how to manage a large incident for the state’s fire commanders has been delayed and may end up being a videoconference, officials with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said.

In Southern California, Los Angeles city firefighters have delayed their annual defensible space inspections for homes in the foothills by at least two weeks, while other agencies in the region have canceled public outreach and education events.

Amid the silent march of the coronavirus, however, there has been some good news for firefighters.

Late-season rains in March helped reduce some of the spring fire risks Californians were facing after one of the state's driest Februaries on record.

“This much rain is definitely going to help with alleviating the chances of wildfires in the spring, but probably not going to help out with our normal wildfire season in the fall,” said Alexander Gershunov, a research meteorologist at UC San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography. “It's actually going to grow the fuels a little more.”

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-04-03/coronavirus-delays-wildfire-preparations-evacuation-centers-redesigned>