News Headlines 04/15/2020

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COUNTY FIRE SETS UP COVID-19 SURVEY
Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News
Posted: April 15, 2020

The San Bernardino County Fire Department has set up a survey to gauge how well residents are informed about the virus. Rebecca Havely has more information about how you can participate…

The San Bernardino County Fire Department has an informational survey set up on its website, sbcfire.org. The survey is short, with only six questions, and is followed by links for resources, videos, and more. There is also an opportunity for residents to email the fire department directly with questions and concerns.


2 firefighters injured as Lake Arrowhead home burns
Brian Rokos, San Bernardino Sun
Posted: April 14, 2020, 7:51 pm

Two firefighters were injured Tuesday, April 14, when the floor of a burning home in Lake Arrowhead collapsed beneath them, the San Bernardino County Fire Department said.

The fire was reported about 11:30 a.m. in the 27000 block of Alpen Drive. Firefighters arrived to find smoke and fire coming from the multi-story home. They were able to prevent the flames from spreading beyond the structure.

When firefighters went inside to extinguish the flames and search for victims, a firefighter fell through the floor to the basement. A second firefighter then partially fell through. Both were able to get escape the home with only minor injuries. They were treated at a hospital and released.

No one else was injured and no other victims were found, a news release said.

The home was heavily damaged. The cause of the fire was under investigation.

The Running Springs Fire Department, Cal Fire and U.S. Forest Service assisted in the firefight.

https://www.sbsun.com/2020/04/14/2-firefighters-injured-as-lake-arrowhead-home-burns/
2 San Bernardino County firefighters injured while battling house fire

Martin Estacio, Daily Press
Posted: April 14, 2020

Two firefighters battling a house fire in Lake Arrowhead on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, were injured after falling through a hole into a basement area. Both suffered minor injuries, however, and were able to return to duty the same day. [PHOTO COURTESY OF RMG NEWS]

LAKE ARROWHEAD — Two firefighters battling a blaze in a multi-story home Tuesday were injured after both fell through a burned-out hole into a basement.

Both firefighters suffered minor injuries and were able to return to duty the same day, according to San Bernardino County Fire Battalion Chief Mike McClintock.

The injuries occurred after the blaze broke out at 11:34 a.m. in the 27000 block of Alpen Drive. The first arriving engine found “smoke and fire showing from the front of a multi-story home,” McClintock said.

As crews went inside to put out the rest of the fire and complete a search, one of the county firefighters fell through a “compromised section of floor to the basement area below,” McClintock said.

A second firefighter also fell through but only to his waist area and was able to pull himself out, according to McClintock.

The first firefighter was also able to crawl out to safety. The fire was extinguished in about 50 minutes.

McClintock said the home sustained heavy damage and was red-tagged by building and safety officials as unsafe to live in.

One resident of the home was also displaced.

The cause of the fire was still under investigation as of Tuesday afternoon, McClintock said.

LAKE ARROWHEAD, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Two firefighters suffered injuries Tuesday afternoon while fighting a house fire in Lake Arrowhead.

At about 11:34 am, on April 15, 2020, San Bernardino County Firefighters responded to a residential fire in the 27000 block of Aplen Drive.

The first unit arrived within 3 minutes of dispatch to find smoke and fire showing from the front of the multi-story home.

County Fire Battalion Chief Mike McClintock said crews initiated a transitional attack, limiting the fire’s spread and protecting the nearby exposures.

“Once crews transitioned inside to extinguish the remainder of the fire and complete a search, a SBCoFD firefighter fell through a compromised section of floor to the basement area below,” stated McClintock. “A second firefighter nearby also partially fell through, but was able to self rescue.”

McClintock said both the firefighters quickly self extricated and were treated by an awaiting ambulance. Both injured firefighters received minor injuries and were transported to a local hospital for evaluation. Both have been released.

The fire was out in approximately 50 minutes and a search of the home came up negative. One occupant of the home was displaced by the fire.

A fire investigator was requested to determine cause and origin.

As of April 4, 2020 there was five firefighter cases.

On April 4th, 2020, the Incident Commander of San Bernardino County’s All Hazard Regional Incident Management Team (IMT) was notified that three additional firefighters tested positive for COVID-19 bringing the total number of active cases to five. The newly affected firefighters are from the following agencies: San Bernardino County Fire Protection District and Daggett Fire Department.

In response to a confirmed exposure and with the onset of symptoms, the above firefighters entered self-isolation. Several days ago, the announcement was made that the first two firefighters were exposed and tested positive for COVID-19. None of the five affected have required hospitalization for their symptoms. They remain in isolation under the supervision of healthcare professionals and are expected to fully recover.

In addition to developing a testing plan, the IMT has also identified a return-to-work flow path for firefighters who have previously tested positive. Once a firefighter has fully recovered from symptoms, procedures have been put in effect to safely return personnel to the workplace.

This ensures, to the greatest extent possible, that first responders are not contributing to the spread of this virus. The IMT has been planning for the last several weeks for the possibility of exposure and infection to the County’s first responders. The team’s regional plan is working well and ensures that fire, rescue, and EMS service delivery will not be interrupted regardless of jurisdiction. Fire and ambulance services within the County remain fully staffed and equipped to respond to all emergencies.

Exposure to COVID-19 amongst county firefighters and paramedics has remained low. This is due in large part to first responders having access to the proper PPE’s and the public’s adherence to the recommendations of the 911 operators to keep social distancing as emergency responders arrive on scene. Command and General staff of the IMT are working with Public Health to determine the employees’ travels and interactions to help control further spread of the virus. The Incident Management Team thanks the public for their continued vigilance and adherence to all guidelines and recommendations from Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control. Stay healthy; stay safe; stay covered; stay home.

http://sanbernardino.citynewsgroup.com/articles/additional-firefighters-test-positive-for-covid-19