



# NEWS



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## MOBILE HOME FIRE IN TWENTYNINE PALMS EARLY SATURDAY MORNING

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: April 20, 2020



Photo courtesy San Bernardino County Fire Department

A mobile home was a complete loss after an early morning fire in Twentynine Palms Saturday.

County Fire Battalion Chief Mike McClintock said that fire crews from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** were dispatched to a vegetation fire in the 3800 block of Morongo Road in the unincorporated area of 29 Palms around 2:30 a.m.

When firefighters arrived, they found a double wide trailer, vehicle and debris fully involved in flames.

The fire was completely knocked down in 20 minutes with the assistance of one fire engine from the Combat Center. The fire is currently under investigation by County fire investigators.

<http://z1077fm.com/mobile-home-fire-in-twentynine-palms-early-saturday-morning/>

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## Las Vegas woman killed on I-15 near state line

Staff Writer, Daily Press

Posted: April 18, 2020, 8:25 pm

MOUNTAIN PASS — Authorities have identified a 32-year-old Las Vegas woman who was killed after she was struck by a vehicle headed southbound on Interstate 15 on Friday night.

San Bernardino County Sheriff-Coroner officials said Lateishia Atkinson was pronounced dead at the scene of the crash, just north of Nipton Road, near the California-Nevada state line.

California Highway Patrol officials said Atkinson's 2002 Honda Accord became disabled in the right shoulder of southbound I-15 at approximately 8:20 p.m.

"For reasons still under investigation," Atkinson walked into the interstate and was hit by a 2016 Ford Escape in the No. 2 lane, authorities said.

The driver of the Ford, a 56-year-old Grand Terrace resident, stopped along the shoulder, authorities said, and **San Bernardino County Fire Department** personnel pronounced Atkinson dead at the scene just after 9 p.m.

The coroner's office said Atkinson was found with multiple injuries and "resuscitative efforts on scene failed."

Authorities said alcohol or drugs do not appear to be contributing factors in the crash, which is under investigation by the Barstow area CHP. Anyone with information regarding the investigation is asked to call 760-255-5900.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20200418/las-vegas-woman-killed-on-i-15-near-state-line>

## 1 found dead after firefighters put out RV fire in Joshua Tree

Alma Fausto, Orange County Register / San Bernardino Sun

Posted: April 17, 2020, 9:29 am

One person was found dead after firefighters extinguished an RV fire in Joshua Tree late Thursday night, authorities said.

Firefighters responded around midnight and found the RV ablaze in the 900 block of Sunset Road, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department.

The fire did not spread to any surrounding brush or property.

The gender of the deceased had not been released by officials.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2020/04/17/1-found-dead-after-firefighters-put-out-rv-fire-in-joshua-tree/>

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## 3 women killed in Phelan crash identified

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: April 17, 2020



PHELAN, Calif. (VVNG.com) – Three women killed Thursday afternoon in a head-on crash have been identified.

Killed were Mary Lynn Lacerte, 23, a resident of Pinon Hills; Eden Sage Nunez, 22, a resident of Jonson Valley; Ashley Morgan Taylor, 28, a resident of Palmdale.

On Thursday, April 16, 2020, at 4:03 PM, the California Highway Patrol and **San Bernardino County Fire** Department personnel were dispatched to a two-vehicle crash in the area of Palmdale Road and Sheep Creek Road in Phelan, according to a previously published VVNG article.

Through investigation, it was determined that Lacerte was driving a green 1993 Honda Accord hatchback, with Nunez as her passenger, and Taylor was the driver of a 2002 BMW 330CI.

Both vehicles were traveling on State Route 18, east of Minero Road.

“For reasons still under investigation, one of the vehicles involved was traveling [the] wrong way, and directly into the path of the approaching vehicle, consequently causing a head-on collision,” the CHP report stated.

After the collision, both vehicles came to rest on the south shoulder of State Route 18 where all occupants were pronounced deceased at the scene at 4:19 p.m. by San Bernardino County Fire.

“We have a good idea which vehicle was passing that caused the collision, but unconfirmed,” CHP officer Michael Mumford told VVNG. “We impounded the vehicles as evidence to be inspected, we will be sorting the scene evidence, and we will be contacting the family to obtain a timeline before we put a party at fault.”

Alcohol or drugs are not suspected to be a contributing factor in this traffic collision, officials confirmed.

The crash is being investigated by Officer R. Tighe of the California Highway Patrol, Victorville Area office, and anyone with information regarding this incident is urged to call the CHP Victorville Area office at (760) 241-1186.

<https://www.vvng.com/3-women-killed-in-phelan-crash-identified/>

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## **Man, 43, killed after exiting disabled vehicle on I-15 near Barstow**

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: April 17, 2020

BARSTOW, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A 43-year-old resident of Las Vegas was killed late Thursday, April 16, when he stepped out of his disabled vehicle on the I-15 freeway near Barstow.

The man, whose identity was not available, was driving a 2002 Hyundai Elantra, southbound on the 15 freeway and for unknown reasons, his Hyundai became disabled in the center median, officials said.

According to a California Highway Patrol news release, at about 9:53 pm, the male exited the vehicle as a 23-year-old female from Porterville, CA, was driving a 2014 Chevy Camaro, in the #1 lane, just north of the disabled vehicle.

“For reasons still under investigation, the male pedestrian attempted to cross the southbound lanes of I-15 and was struck by the Chevy Camaro in the #1 lane,” stated the release.

The female driver of the Chevy stopped along the shoulder after the collision and called 911.

Emergency medical personnel responded, and the pedestrian was pronounced deceased on scene at approximately 2210 hours by **San Bernardino County Fire**.

CHP officials said that alcohol and/or drugs are not suspected to be a contributing factor in this collision.

This collision is currently under investigation by the California Highway Patrol, Barstow Area. Anyone with information regarding the crash is asked to call 760-255-5900.

<https://www.vvng.com/man-43-killed-after-exiting-disabled-vehicle-on-i-15-near-barstow/>

## Fire erupts at church in San Bernardino on April 16

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: April 17, 2020



The San Bernardino County Fire Department extinguished a fire at a church in San Bernardino on April 16. (Contributed photo by San Bernardino County Fire Department)

A fire erupted at a church in San Bernardino on April 16 but was quickly extinguished and no injuries were reported, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

At about 10 p.m., firefighters responded to multiple reports of a structure burning near the intersection of West 10th and Arrowhead Avenue.

Medic Engine 221A arrived shortly after dispatch to find smoke and fire showing from one window on the first story of a two story church, The Way World Outreach.

The church was not occupied or open at the time of the incident.

Firefighters quickly forced entry into the building with a priority of search for any potential occupants as well as limiting any fire spread. Crews encountered moderate smoke conditions as they made their way to the involved room. Quick knockdown was achieved with no extension into the second story.

Two truck companies, five engines, one chief officer, and one investigator for a total of 23 personnel responded to the incident. "Damage estimates are still being compiled, and the cause remains under investigation," said Public Information Officer Jeremy Kern.

[https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland\\_empire\\_news/fire-erupts-at-church-in-san-bernardino-on-april-16/article\\_d8c87640-80cc-11ea-a505-d75620c63f81.html](https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland_empire_news/fire-erupts-at-church-in-san-bernardino-on-april-16/article_d8c87640-80cc-11ea-a505-d75620c63f81.html)

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## Council gives 13 Yucca businesses COVID-19 grants

Jenna Hunt, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: April 17, 2020

**YUCCA VALLEY** — The town has given grants of \$5,000 each to 13 businesses so far in its new business support program.

The Town Council discussed the grant program in a special meeting Tuesday and gave staff and Town Manager Curtis Yakimow the authority to approve business grants without asking for council approval.

The new Yucca Together Economic Assistance Package gives up to \$5,000 to businesses to cover costs including mortgage or lease payments, utilities, insurance, payroll and supplies.

So far, a total of \$65,000 has been allocated out of the \$250,000 set aside.

"It's a tough time and I want our residents to know we'll get through this," Councilman Robert Lombardo said.

Sarah Tabbush, owner of Nitty Gritty Antiques in Yucca Valley, wrote a letter to the council requesting grant money. Her letter was read out loud during the meeting.

“I am still very much in the startup phase of my small business and the economic impact of a swift shutdown during the height of our tourist season is devastating,” Tabbush wrote.

“If granted, I will leverage the economic support to maintain my business overhead. Without this, there is a grave risk I will not have a viable business in the future.”

Fifteen businesses applied for grants, and town staff rejected two because they didn’t meet the criteria: Route 62 Diner and Century House, a short-term vacation rental.

Businesses had to have an office or storefront; home-based businesses and vacation rentals didn’t qualify.

They also had to have a current business registration with the town, show how COVID-19 was affecting them, have a proposed recovery plan and be likely to reopen after the pandemic and make less than \$1 million in annual revenues.

The grants are available to nonprofit as well.

Grants will be awarded to the following:

- Fins and Fangs Pet Store.
- Route 62 Vintage.
- Desert Communities Transportation Services (a non-emergency medical transportation service).
- Dickey’s Barbecue Pit.
- Elite Cosmetology School.
- Farmers Insurance.
- Funky and Darn Near New.
- Legion Gaming.
- Nitty Gritty (business registration is pending).
- PR Legal Documents.
- Strata Tattoo Lab.
- Brilliant Dance Academy.
- Organic Market Cafe (business registration is required).

The council authorized Yakimow to approve upcoming grants.

“Those grantees would be determined at a staff level,” Yakimow said.

“I agree with leaving it up to the town to manage it,” Mayor Jeff Drozd said. “I think this is a great idea.”

Mayor Pro Tem Merl Abel, said he has full confidence in the staff’s ability to approve the grants.

“I do agree we should streamline the process,” Abel said.

“It is very important we maintain our small businesses at this time.”

Abel also applauded the town’s emergency funds and solid reserves.

“Having those emergency funds is so vital,” Abel said.

“I’m glad the councils before us left a decent amount of reserves.”

Sheriff’s capt: We’re ready to weather the storm

Participating in the meeting remotely were San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Capt. Lucas Niles and **fire Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle**.

“We’re hoping we don’t have any surges, but we want to be prepared,” Tuttle said.

Niles said sheriff deputies “remain available” and ready to serve.

He also added they are seeing a slight decrease in calls for service.

“We’re poised to weather the storm,” Niles said.

[http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article\\_7aeaf138-80f4-11ea-9a9a-3726c2103db9.html](http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_7aeaf138-80f4-11ea-9a9a-3726c2103db9.html)