



NEWS



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Man airlifted after rollover crash on National Trails Highway in Oro Grande

Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News Group

Posted: May 4, 2020



A man was airlifted after a rollover crash. (Gabriel D. Espinoza/ Victor Valley News)

ORO GRANDE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — One person was airlifted to a trauma center following a single-vehicle rollover crash Sunday night.

The crash happened at 11:09 p.m. on National Trails Highway just north of Barbosa Road, and involved a silver 2008 Chrysler Sebring that overturned.

According to the California Highway Patrol logs, a man was ejected from the vehicle and was lying in the middle of the highway unresponsive.

San Bernardino County Fire arrived on scene and requested a Mercy Air helicopter to transport the critically injured man to a trauma center.

National Trails Highway was shut down in both directions for the helicopter to land, and for authorities to complete the investigation.

A San Bernardino County Sheriff's Deputy told Victor Valley News that one person fled from the vehicle on foot, leaving the injured person behind.

A description of the person who left the scene was unknown at the time.

No further details were immediately available.

<https://www.vvng.com/man-airlifted-after-rollover-crash-on-national-trails-highway-in-oro-grande/>

3 killed, 3 airlifted following rollover crash on I-15 near Baker

Hugo Valdez, Victor Valley News Group

Posted: May 3, 2020

BAKER, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Three people were killed and three others were airlifted following a rollover traffic collision on the I-15 freeway Sunday.

The crash, involving a silver sedan, was reported at 1:33 pm on the northbound 15 freeway north of Razor Road. **San Bernardino County Fire** arrived on scene and confirmed 3 people had been ejected and requested three helicopters for three additional patients.

The I-15 was temporarily shut down in order to allow the airships to land on the freeway.

This is a developing story and additional information will be updated as it becomes available.

<https://www.vvng.com/3-killed-3-airlifted-following-rollover-crash-on-i-15-near-baker/>

Damage in Splash Kingdom water park fire extensive

Staff Writer, Inland News Today

Posted: May 4, 2020

REDLANDS (INT) – Investigators have determined that water sprinklers failed to activate during Saturday's 3-alarm fire at the vacant Splash Kingdom water park.

The distinctive pyramid-style structure that could be seen from Interstate 10 at California Street sustained significant fire and smoke damage.

Fire fighters from Redlands, Loma Linda, Rialto, Colton, **San Bernardino** and the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians contained the 5:30am fire in an hour.

There were no injuries, but damages were estimated at \$750,000.

The cause of the fire or exactly where it originated have not been disclosed.

<http://www.inlandnewstoday.com/story.php?s=58886>

3-alarm fire causes major damage to Splash Kingdom structure in Redlands

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News Group

Posted: May 2, 2020

REDLANDS, Calif. (VVNG.com) — No injuries were reported following a 3-alarm structure fire at the now vacant Splash Kingdom water park in Redlands early Saturday morning.

At about 5:30 am, on May 2, 2020, firefighters from the Redlands Fire Department responded to a fire in the 1100 block of California Avenue.

When crews arrived on scene they found heavy smoke showing from the distinctive pyramid style structure located beside the westbound lanes of the I-10 at California Street.

“It took firefighters approximately an hour to knock down the blaze,” stated a Redlands Fire news release. “The structure suffered major fire and smoke damage.”

According to the release, “while the building was equipped with fire sprinklers, the sprinklers didn't activate.”

Damage to the structure is estimated at \$750,000. The cause of the fire is under investigation and no other structures were damaged.

In addition to Redlands, crews from Loma Linda, Rialto, Colton, **San Bernardino** and the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians responded to the blaze along with an ambulance from American Medical Response and a crew from Southern California Edison, who cut power to the building.

<https://www.vvng.com/3-alarm-fire-causes-major-damage-to-splash-kingdom-structure-in-redlands/>

Flames damage Splash Kingdom waterpark in Redlands

Brian Rokos, Daily Bulletin

Posted: May 2, 2020, 9:42 am



Fire caused a reported \$750,000 damage to Splash Kingdom in Redlands early May 2, 2020. (Courtesy of Redlands Fire Department)

Fire ripped through the troubled Splash Kingdom waterpark in Redlands early Saturday, May 2, causing \$750,000 in damages, the Redlands Fire Department said.

Firefighters arriving just after 5:30 a.m. found heavy smoke pouring from the pyramid-shaped structure near the 10 Freeway and California Street. Firefighters needed an hour to put out the fire. The three-alarm blaze also summoned firefighters from Loma Linda, Rialto, Colton, **San Bernardino** and the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.

The building has sprinklers, but they didn't work, a news release said.

No injuries were reported.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

City spokesman Carl Baker said the business appeared to be vacant.

The owners could not immediately be reached for comment.

Splash Kingdom's most recent Facebook post was made on Feb. 1, when customers were invited to watch the Super Bowl at The Wall restaurant, a facility that the owners opened in the old Egyptian-themed arcade in October.

That transformation was only the latest that the amusement park has undergone in its more than 23-year history.

Originally called Pharaoh's Lost Kingdom, the 17-acre property was opened in 1996 by James Braswell, seeking to diversify from his family's chain of senior care facilities. Attractions included an interior arcade, miniature golf, go-karts, bumper boats, laser tag, and water slides.

The main building, topped by a pyramid and featuring a giant pharaoh's head looming over the entrance, became a landmark on the 10 Freeway.

Other the years, many of the outdoor attractions closed during a series of ownership changes, code violations and troubles with the city. It was renamed Splash Kingdom in 2006 as focus shifted to the water park. The interior was transformed into a trampoline park in 2012.

The owners, Dan Martinez and Ryan Sauter, took over the property in 2017. They had the pharaoh's head, most of the Egyptian decorations, and attractions such as the miniature golf removed in 2018, running afoul of the city in the process. The city revoked their permit to operate but later restored it.

Martinez, in an October interview, said the partners' now have a good relationship with the city, and that "the next step — and it's a significant step — is an amendment to the conditional use permit."

<https://www.dailybulletin.com/2020/05/02/flames-gut-splash-kingdom-waterpark-in-redlands/>

Motorcyclist airlifted after crash with a semi on Highway 395 in Hesperia

Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victorville Valley News

Posted: May 2, 2020



(Photo by Isabel Garcia Esquivel-Luna)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A motorcyclist was flown to an out of area trauma center after a collision involving a tractor-trailer on Highway 395.

The crash was reported at 10:28 am, on May 2, 2020, near the intersection of Main Street and US-395.

Desiree Garcia commented on a VVNG Facebook like video and said the crash happened just as you turn left from Main Street. "Looks like motorcycle went partially under the truck it was a male on the black motorcycle."

San Bernardino County Firefighters responded to the incident and requested a helicopter to airlift the rider. A Mercy Air helicopter accepted the flight and met the ambulance at a designated landing zone near Bishop and Poplar Street.

Sheriff's officials said the motorcycle rider was airlifted with major injuries but details on the cause of the crash were not available at the time of this article.

The accident prompted a brief closure of the highway. Additional information will be updated as it becomes available.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Hesperia Sheriff's Station at 760-947-1500.

<https://www.vvng.com/motorcyclist-airlifted-after-crash-with-a-semi-on-highway-395-in-hesperia/>

5 things we've learned about coronavirus in San Bernardino County

Sandra Emerson, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: May 1, 2020, 5:15 pm



Fontana resident Ana Nucum wears a mask as a precaution against the spread of coronavirus as she shops inside Ontario Mills on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. (File photo by Watchara Phomicinda, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG)

As health officials continue to learn more about the novel coronavirus, data collected in San Bernardino County gives a glimpse into the pandemic's local impact.

Since reporting its first positive case of COVID-19 on March 15, county health officials have ramped up testing, issued health orders and identified those most at risk for catching the disease.

While more testing is needed to understand the virus's true prevalence in the community, here are five trends already emerging in San Bernardino County.

More people, more cases

By Friday, May 1, 2,113 people had tested positive for COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus, and 94 people had died in the county of more than 2.1 million residents.

Generally, the county's largest cities have the most confirmed cases. There are 252 in San Bernardino, 251 in Fontana, 157 in Ontario and 119 in Rancho Cucamonga.

Yucaipa, with about one-quarter of those cities' populations, is the exception.

Outbreaks at two skilled nursing facilities in the city starting in late March made it an early hot spot, and Yucaipa still has the county's third-highest total of confirmed cases, with 176. At least 115 of those cases are tied to Cedar Mountain Post-Acute Rehabilitation and 44 are linked to Calimesa Post Acute.

One might expect cities with more residents to have more cases. But the list of places with the most cases relative to their population looks different.

Yucaipa tops that list as well, with 32.3 confirmed cases per 10,000 residents. That's more than 3 times higher than the overall county rate.

Other smaller and medium-sized communities also have higher rates than the large cities:

Redlands: 16.2 cases per 10,000 residents

Bloomington: 15.9 cases per 10,000 residents

Loma Linda: 15.4 cases per 10,000 residents

Joshua Tree: 14.8 cases per 10,000 residents

The county did not make anyone available this week to talk about what might be behind those higher rates.

Two tiny mountain communities have high rates too. Blue Jay has three cases among about 900 residents, while Angelus Oaks has one case among about 400 residents.

Where cases are climbing

The data also shows where the virus was spreading the quickest.

Looking at places that had at least 10 confirmed cases two weeks ago, these places have seen their number of cases double or more:

Ontario: Up 171%, from 58 to 157 cases
Montclair: Up 167%, from 12 to 32 cases
Colton: Up 141%, from 29 to 70 cases
Bloomington: Up 125%, from 12 to 27 cases
Upland: Up 119%, from 42 to 92 cases
San Bernardino: Up 108%, from 121 to 252 cases
Loma Linda: Up 105%, from 19 to 39 cases

More testing needed

While knowing the number of positive cases is helpful, it doesn't give the full picture of how the virus has spread throughout the county. That's because everyone isn't being tested.

In San Bernardino County, only people with symptoms of the disease have qualified for a test, either through county-run testing events or private health care providers.

This week, however, the availability of more tests made it possible for the county to start testing those older than 65, health care workers and public safety personnel even if they are not showing symptoms. Ultimately, the county wants to offer testing to everyone, officials have said.

San Bernardino County is the nation's largest geographically and the fifth-most-populous in the state. It had the sixth most cases in California as of Thursday, according to the state's COVID-19 website.

Through Friday, 20,598 county residents have been tested, which is equivalent to 0.94% of the county's total population. That's lower than its neighbors: The rate is 2.1% in Riverside County, 1.48% in Los Angeles County and 1.06% in Orange County.

Health officials have held testing events in nearly all parts of the county.

While the hometown of about one-fifth of those tested is unknown, communities where more residents have been tested also show higher rates of confirmed cases.

Of those whose residences are known, the most live in San Bernardino, where daily testing events have occurred.

More than 3,000 San Bernardino residents have been tested. That city also had the most confirmed cases Friday.

Room for patients

Early projections of the virus's spread throughout the state predicted a surge of patients overwhelming hospitals and using all the ventilators. In preparation, hospitals expanded capacity, erected overflow tents in parking lots and established alternate care sites.

Hospitals and health care professionals across the county worked to track their capacity and ventilator supplies.

Last week, the county started sharing that data.

It shows that the number of COVID-19-positive patients in hospitals and intensive care units has remained flat since early April, Dr. Rodney Borger, chairman of emergency medicine at the county-run Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, said during a news conference Friday, May 1.

“What this means is that we still have COVID out there in the community,” Borger said. “It’s still spreading. It’s not spreading faster than it was a few weeks ago, but it’s not spreading that much slower either.”

As of Thursday in San Bernardino County hospitals, about 74% of hospitals’ ICU beds and 35% of ventilators were being used (some by confirmed or suspected COVID-19 patients; more by other patients).

Flattening the curve

To slow the virus, Californians were told to stay home and nonessential businesses were ordered to close. That helped, said Dr. Troy Pennington, emergency room physician at Arrowhead and medical director for the **San Bernardino County Fire** Protection District.

The virus’s doubling rate — how long it takes for the number of people infected to double — increased from 4.7 to 5 days to between 8 to 10 days, a sign that people’s actions have slowed the spread, Pennington said.

As of Friday, the doubling time was 10.4 days.

While hospitals have the space to care for patients now, the county identified three locations to handle hospital overflow if needed. Beds are already set up at the National Orange Show Events Center in San Bernardino for patients with less-severe symptoms.

Health care officials worry that a return to normal life too soon could lead to a second, larger outbreak, especially as people start getting restless indoors, Pennington said.

Longer term, they expect people to continue testing positive for COVID-19 during the upcoming flu season, in addition to a possible baby boom in early 2021 that would put more pressure on the health care system, Pennington said.

“I just feel like we’re in a much better position now because we have all the data to be able to help us identify hot spots as we move forward,” Pennington said.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2020/05/01/5-things-weve-learned-about-coronavirus-in-san-bernardino-county/>