News Headlines 05/12/2020

➢ Brush fire near Joshua Tree burns 155 acres
➢ 155 ACRE VEGETATION FIRE BURNS IN YUCCA VALLEY AND JOSHUA TREE, CLOSES SR 62
➢ Fire burns 50-plus acres between Yucca Valley and Joshua Tree, closes Highway 62
➢ VEGETATION FIRE CAUSES DETOUR ON HIGHWAY 62 IN JOSHUA TREE
A fire near Joshua Tree burned 155 acres on Monday, May 11, 2020. (Photo courtesy of the San Bernardino County Fire Department)

A 155-acre brush fire near Joshua Tree along Highway 62 on Monday disrupted motorists traveling to and from the Coachella Valley.

The blaze was reported about 12:30 p.m. near where La Contenta Road intersects the highway in Yucca Valley, according to the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

As of 4 p.m., firefighters had stopped to spread and were mopping up the scene, with the fire having charred roughly 155 acres. Crews were expected to remain at the site establishing containment lines for several more hours.

Traffic was halted in both directions on Highway 62 for much of the afternoon, but as of 4 p.m. both westbound lanes were open and one eastbound lane remained closed, the California Highway Patrol reported.

No structures were damaged, and no injuries were reported.


155 ACRE VEGETATION FIRE BURNS IN YUCCA VALLEY AND JOSHUA TREE, CLOSES SR 62
Taylor Martinez, NBC Palm Springs
Posted: May 11, 2020 5:00 pm

UPDATE 5:00 PM: SBCFD says the forward rate of spread has been stopped with 155 acres burned. Crews will remain on scene late Monday from clean-up and containment.

UPDATE 2:30 PM: SBCFD says the blaze is now at 90-100 acres.

ORIGINAL: A vegetation fire shut down part of State-Route 62 between Yucca Valley and Joshua Tree.

According to the San Bernardino County Fire Department, the fire was reported around 11:54 Monday morning and started at 5-6 acres before quickly spreading to 50-70 acres with potential of 100+ acres.

Fire officials say the blaze is moving north towards 29 Palms Highway.

SR 62 is closed both directions between Yucca Mesa Road and Sunny Vista Road for an unknown duration.

This story is developing.

A stretch of Highway 62 is closed because of a brush fire that could potentially grow to 100 acres Monday, fire officials said.

The fire is burning near La Contenta Road and Highway 62 between Yucca Valley and Joshua Tree, according to the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

Between 50 and 70 acres burned as of 12:45 p.m. as flames moved north.

The fire was reported about 11:30 a.m. and there have not been reports of threatened buildings.

Caltrans reported Highway 62 is closed in both directions between Yucca Mesa and Sunny Vista roads. The stretch covers about two miles.

Westbound lanes were open by 1:30 p.m., according to the California Highway Patrol. Eastbound lanes were expected to be closed until 6 p.m.

This is a developing story.


VEGETATION FIRE CAUSES DETOUR ON HIGHWAY 62 IN JOSHUA TREE

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

A vegetation fire near the Joshua Tree cemetery spread rapidly to more 155 acres Monday. Firefighters were called to the area of Highway 62 and Memorial Drive about 11:30 a.m. for the fire. Gusty winds caused problems for firefighters, as the fire increased in size from about 5 acres to 80 acres in 30 minutes. Firefighters were able to stop the forward spread of the fire by about 4 p.m., at which time the area burned by the fire was estimated at about 155 acres. San Bernardino County firefighters asked for additional resources of brush engines, water tenders, a bulldozer, and hand crews to contain the wild fire, as well as support from Joshua Tree National Park, the Combat Center, and Calfire. No structures were threatened and Highway 62 kept the fire from spreading to the north. Thick smoke across the highway caused the California Highway Patrol to detour traffic on the highway to Alta Loma Road. Fire crews are expected to be at the scene throughout the night making sure all hot spots are out.