



NEWS



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COUNTY FIRE OFFERING FIRE ASSESSMENTS FOR HIGH-RISK PROPERTIES

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: May 14, 2020

As California residents continue to adhere to stay-at-home orders, it is a great time to prepare yourself, your family, and your home for wildfire season. With new seasonal vegetation growth emerging across the Morongo Basin from recent rains, now is the time to get serious about fire safety. Reporter Andrew Dieleman has more information about a new program that can help assess fire safety for those living in high-risk areas...

To help increase public knowledge of fire safety and preparedness, the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department is conducting property and structural assessments in areas that are at increased risk of wildfire. The Residential Assessment Program (RAP) is a public outreach program designed to provide County citizens with current information, and the best methods available, to protect their homes and property from wildfires. For more information on the program, or to schedule an appointment, call (909)386-8400 or email countyfirerap@sbcfire.org.

<http://z1077fm.com/county-fire-offering-fire-assessments-for-high-risk-properties/>

Suspect is arrested after igniting a fire at school in Fontana

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: May 13, 2020



Part of a Fontana school was damaged due to a small fire. (Contributed photo by Fontana School Police Department)

A suspect was arrested after igniting a small fire at a school in Fontana, according to the Fontana Unified School District School Police Department.

Officers responded to the closed school in regard to a suspicious person starting a fire, the School Police said in a Facebook post on May 13.

The suspect was taken into custody without incident and was later booked at West Valley Detention Center on multiple charges.

The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department extinguished the fire and there was minimal damage. The school was not identified.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/suspect-is-arrested-after-igniting-a-fire-at-school-in-fontana/article_5189a03c-9562-11ea-b9bb-9bd48718a9b7.html

Southern California desert fire contained, man arrested

Staff Writer, San Francisco Chronicle

Posted: May 13, 2020

JOSHUA TREE, Calif. (AP) — A man was arrested on suspicion of causing a fire that burned 150 acres (60 hectares) of Southern California desert, authorities said.

The fire erupted late Tuesday morning in the community of Joshua Tree and spread rapidly, the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department said.

Despite strong winds, crews kept the fire from crossing Twentynine Palms Highway and away from buildings at the Joshua Tree Memorial Park cemetery, and it was fully contained in about eight hours.

Callers to 911 had reported seeing a man leaving the area where the fire started and sheriff's deputies arrested a 43-year-old local resident, the Fire Department said. The man was not immediately identified.

The burned land is part of a 623-acre (252-hectare) property in the Mojave Desert Land Trust and has thousands of Joshua trees, as well as desert tortoises and other animals.

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/news/article/Southern-California-desert-fire-contained-man-15267596.php>

Hesperia triple shooting suspect remains on the run

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News Group

Posted: May 13, 2020



HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A 24-year-old Hesperia man wanted for shooting three people last week remains on the run, officials said.

The suspect, Ricardo Kelley, is described as a Hispanic male, 5'-06", 156 pounds, last seen wearing a white tank top and blue jeans. Kelley has tattoos of Mickey Mouse and the Superman symbol on his right arm.

VVNG first reported on the shooting when it happened on May 5, 2020, at about 11:31 pm, outside of a residence in the 7000 block of Oakwood Avenue in Hesperia.

According to a sheriff's news release, deputies responded and found three victims inside the location suffering from gunshot wounds, officials said.

Through investigation, it was discovered the shooter and the three victims were in a verbal altercation at the location. Kelley brandished a gun and shot multiple rounds, striking all three victims.

All three of the victims were airlifted to out of area trauma centers with life-threatening injuries and are expected to survive their injuries.

Anyone with information regarding Kelley's whereabouts or 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/hesperia-triple-shooting-suspect-remains-on-the-run/>

CITY OF TWENTYNINE PALMS TO FREEZE ALL PAY RAISES IN JULY

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: May 13, 2020



County Fire Chief Dan Munsey discussed the impact that repealing FP-5 would have on the fire department at the Twentynine Palms City Council meeting. Video screenshot

Last night's meeting of the Twentynine Palms City Council resulted in some tough decisions in light of the COVID-19 economic reality. Reporter Heather Clisby has the details...

The Twentynine Palms City Council gathered last night to hear presentations from the U.S. Census and the County Fire Department before facing necessary budget changes in light of COVID-19.

Doug Hassett from the U.S. Census presented an updated status on census participation. Thus far, California is at a 59.8 percent self-response rate and Twentynine Palms is at 48.6 percent. Due to COVID-19 inhibiting outreach, many of the response deadline dates have been moved from summer to fall.

San Bernardino County Fire Chief Dan Munsey offered a detailed review of what a repeal of FP5—the annual \$157 parcel fee—could mean for the City's fire protection. The FP5 tax brought in \$9.5 million last fiscal year for the South Desert region that includes the Morongo Basin. Munsey stated that a repeal of FP5 could result in shuttered fire stations, increased emergency response times and staff reductions.

The council approved the use of community development block grant funding so the city can then allocate the \$102,000 to local food banks stretched thin by the COVID-19 economic crisis.

And facing a loss of TOT (bed tax) and sales tax revenue due to the shutdown, the council reviewed proposed changes to budgets for fiscal year 2020-2021. After some discussion, council members resolved to give step raises only (no merit and no cost-of-living) to city employees through the end of June. In July, all pay raises will be frozen tentatively for 12 months. The council will re-visit the issue come September.

The council voted not to cancel but instead, officially postpone the city's summer day camps until the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention removes restrictions on group gatherings.

The council voted to temporarily stop adding to the city's post-retiree benefits trust fund though this will not affect any current retiree or their benefits.

<http://z1077fm.com/city-of-twentynine-palms-to-freeze-all-pay-raises-in-july/>