



NEWS



News Headlines 05/15/2020

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Manmade fire arrest

Staff Writer, The Desert Independent

Posted: May 14, 2020

JOSHUA TREE, Calif – On Monday, May 11 at about 11:50 a.m., deputies from the San Bernardino County Sheriff - Morongo Basin Sheriff's Station, fire fighters from the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department, and officers from the California Highway Patrol responded to multiple 9-1-1 calls of a brush fire near Twentynine Palms Hwy and La Contenta Road.

In total, 76 fire personnel responded with 11 fire engines, two water tenders, and two bulldozers to fight the fire. Sheriff's Aviation assisted and conducted an aerial search for the suspect. When the fire was extinguished about six hours later, approximately 155 acres of wildlife habitat restoration area, belonging to the Mojave Desert Land Trust, were burned.

Deputies identified Michael Smith (43 of Joshua Tree) as a suspect and contacted him at his residence nearby. Smith was interviewed and subsequently arrested for unlawfully causing the fire. He was transported to the Morongo Basin Jail where he is currently being held on \$25,000 bail.

Anyone with information related to this investigation is asked to contact the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Morongo Basin Station at (760)366-4175.

<http://thedesertinde.com/Archives/Articles-2020/Manmade-fire-arrest--0514.html>

Nine-acre vegetation fire briefly threatens homes

Carl Baker, City of Redlands, Redlands Community News

Posted: May 14, 2020

Redlands firefighters responded to a fast moving brush fire that blackened nine acres and briefly threatened homes on the east side of Redlands Monday afternoon. No injuries were reported.

The fire was first reported shortly after 4 p.m. Monday, May 11, in the area of Camelot Drive and threatened homes along Wabash Avenue.

Redlands firefighters were assisted in the air and ground by CalFire, and the **San Bernardino County** and Loma Linda fire departments.

The fire was contained in approximately one hour and firefighters remained on scene late into the evening extinguishing the last remaining hotspots.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

The fire serves as a reminder that now is the time to create defensible space around your homes as the late winter rains caused an abundant crop of annual grasses to grow.

Maintain a 30-foot clearance and give firefighters a chance to defend your home.

For further information visit the Community Risk Reduction website cityofredlands.org/community-risk-reduction or call (909) 798-7600.

https://www.redlandscommunitynews.com/news/public_safety/nine-acre-vegetation-fire-briefly-threatens-homes/article_e91dc438-9606-11ea-9ab7-2f8f481b35ab.html

Fire breaks out near Highland

Staff Writer, Redlands Community News

Posted: May 14, 2020



A C-130 drops fire retardant near a Highland neighborhood protecting it from a brush fire on Thursday, May 7, north of Highland Avenue. Photo by Citrus Valley High School senior Bianca Orejel

A fire broke out just after 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 7, two miles north of Highland Avenue east of Highway 330 north in the city of San Bernardino.

San Bernardino County Fire, under unified command with Highland Fire and the U.S. Forest service, used 13 engines, three dozers, four hand crews and a C-130 aircraft along with helicopters from Cal Fire, the U.S. Forest Service and San Bernardino Sheriff's Aviation from the air to fight the fire.

According to San Bernardino County Fire Battalion Chief Steve Tracy the fire was nine acres by approximately 4 p.m.

Tracy said the green vegetation in the area helped fire crews to suppress the fire. Had this fire happened a month later the vegetation would have been dry and the fire more difficult to fight.

The Highland Avenue 330 north off ramp to Surrey Lane was shutdown to traffic; no evacuations were ordered. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

https://www.redlandscommunitynews.com/news/fire-breaks-out-near-highland/article_83298994-9603-11ea-be9e-777536664234.html