



NEWS



News Headlines 05/22 – 26/2020

- ANOTHER SUSPICIOUS FIRE IN TWENTYNINE PALMS
- Detectives investigating a homicide in Hesperia on Memorial Day
- Rescuers respond to injured trail hikers returning to nature
- Fire damages residence and outbuildings in Fontana on May 25
- Driver ejected, airlifted to hospital after crash in Hesperia
- Visitors flock to Lytle Creek to enjoy outdoor fun during holiday weekend
- Fire is extinguished in Fontana on May 24
- Hesperia plays hardball with illegal fireworks
- Here's how San Bernardino County residents can help prepare for wildfire season

ANOTHER SUSPICIOUS FIRE IN TWENTYNINE PALMS

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: May 26, 2020

County firefighters were called to another suspicious fire in Twentynine Palms Monday. Just before 6 p.m., Twentynine Palms and Joshua Tree fire crews, with assistance from the Combat Center, were called to the 73600 block of Calle Todd Lane where they found a double-wide trailer fully involved in flames. The trailer was a total loss as it burned to the ground. The fire is suspicious in nature since there were no utilities to the site. The Sheriff's Arson and Bomb unit is investigating. There have been seven other suspicious fires in the Twentynine Palms-Wonder Valley area in the last five weeks.

<http://z1077fm.com/another-suspicious-fire-in-twentynine-palms/>

Detectives investigating a homicide in Hesperia on Memorial Day

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News Group

Posted: May 25, 2020



A blue baseball cap was photographed by CSI before being picked up as evidence. (Hugo C. Valdez, VVNG.com)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Detectives are conducting a homicide investigation in Hesperia on Memorial Day.

At about 2:49 am, on Monday, May 25, 2020, San Bernardino County Fire was requested to respond for a shooting victim in the 10100 block of Balsam Avenue.

Sheriff's spokeswoman Jodi Miller told VVNG it's very early in the investigation and no details were available for release.

As of 7:00 am, Balsam Avenue between Willow and Cashew Streets was taped-off with crime scene tape as Crime Scene Investigator (CSI) photographed the inside of a residence.

Investigators also photographed a blue baseball cap and a beer can along Willow Street before collecting it as evidence.

Additional information will be updated as it becomes available. Anyone with information is asked to call Deputy J. Deberg with the Hesperia Station at 760-947-1500.

<https://www.vvng.com/detectives-investigating-a-homicide-in-hesperia-on-memorial-day/>

Rescuers respond to injured trail hikers returning to nature

LAYLAN CONNELLY, Orange County Register, Los Angeles Daily News

Posted: May 25, 2020, 2:02 p.m.

As hikers hit the trails to enjoy the outdoors over the holiday weekend, several needed to be rescued after being injured in remote areas.

Trails were busy as restrictions in recent weeks were lifted for wilderness and open space areas. Some trails got so busy with crowds they had to be shut down.

A hiker needed medical attention in the Angeles National Forest near the area of Camp Roberts.

The call to help an injured hiker, a man in his 70s, came in at 11:22 p.m., according to Los Angeles County Fire Department Supervisor Bernard Peters.

“We had a few yesterday. It’s been really busy, they have been in places they shouldn’t have been,” he said, noting hikers are going into areas that are off-limits or shut down.

Peters said the injured man on Monday decided not to be transported and was going to the hospital by car with non-threatening injuries.

Paramedic AirSquad canceled due to heavy tree cover, according to a social media post about the incident.

The injury followed another that happened around noon Sunday, May 24, when a hoist rescue was needed for a hiker near Loma Linda Hills. The victim, Octavian Cureteu, 77 years old from Loma Linda, was hiking with his daughter when he lost his footing and injured his ankle.

“Unable to walk, and with no cell phone, Cureteu crawled to a nearby tree for shade. His daughter hiked down the mountain and found another hiker to call 911 for help,” according to a San Bernadino Sheriff Department news release about the incident.

San Bernardino County Fire Department responded to the area and located Cureteu. Due to the remote, steep and rugged terrain where Cureteu became injured, County Fire requested a helicopter with hoist capabilities.

San Bernardino County Sheriff Department’s 40King2 responded and lowered a rescue medic down to Cureteu, according to the release.

After evaluating Cureteu’s injuries, the medic placed Cureteu in a rescue harness and he was hoisted up into the helicopter, transporting him down the hill and landing in a field where County Fire and AMR personnel were waiting to transport the man to a local hospital by ambulance.

Another call happened on Saturday at about 8:30 a.m. in the Mount Baldy area when hiker Sharon Nieto arrived to hike to the summit. While hiking, Nieto’s sustained a non-life-threatening injury to her knee.

She attempted to continue hiking but due to the pain and discomfort she was unable to continue. An unknown hiker saw Nieto and assisted her by placing a call for service.

San Bernardino County Sheriff helicopter 40King2 responded to the area, determining a hoist rescue was needed because of the terrain.

“As a result of the elevation, terrain, and warm temperatures several attempts were made before 40King2 was able to safely place themselves in a safe hover to hoist a rescue medic down to Nieto,” a report reads.

The rescue medic was hoisted approximately 90 feet down to the ground where Nieto was located, where the medic placed her in a rescue harness. Nieto was transported to the San Antonio Dam to be treated.

Eaton Canyon Natural Areas and Trails were closed Sunday and Monday due to “overwhelming crowds that were not following the COVID-19 public health requirements,” according to the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation.

<https://www.dailynews.com/2020/05/25/hiker-injured-in-angeles-national-forest-near-camp-roberts/>

Fire damages residence and outbuildings in Fontana on May 25

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: May 25, 2020

A fire damaged a residence and outbuildings on a section of property in Fontana on May 25, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department.

The fire, which occurred in the 1800 block of McCauly Street, threatened other homes before being contained by firefighters.

American Medical Response was requested to the scene to address a civilian medical issue during the incident, according to a Twitter post by the Fire Department.

Investigators are trying to determine the cause of the fire.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/fire-damages-residence-and-outbuildings-in-fontana-on-may-25/article_a97ef794-9ef2-11ea-b37d-9fc49da51133.html

Driver ejected, airlifted to hospital after crash in Hesperia

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News Group

Posted: May 24, 2020



(Photo by Carlos Talbert)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — At 10:56 pm, on May 22, 2020, **San Bernardino County Firefighters** responded to a two-vehicle crash in the area of Hesperia Road and Sycamore Street.

When firefighters arrived, they located a black Acura with major damage and an overturned white Nissan Cube.

A witness told VVNG the Acura ran the stop sign and was struck by the SUV. The male driver of the Acura was ejected approximately 20-feet from the vehicle. According to the witness, deputies found a gun on the Acura driver.

Firefighters requested a helicopter to land at Desert Valley Hospital and airlift the patient to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

The driver of the Nissan was treated for the complaint of chest pain.

VVNG reached out to the sheriff's public information officer Jodi Miller to inquire if a weapon was recovered or if any driver was arrested. The spokeswoman said there was no information or press release available at the time.

Additional information will be updated as it becomes available.

<https://www.vvng.com/driver-ejected-airlifted-to-hospital-after-crash-in-hesperia/>

Visitors flock to Lytle Creek to enjoy outdoor fun during holiday weekend

MIKE MYERS, Fontana Herald News

Posted: May 24, 2020



Visitors enjoy the warm weather by going to the riverbed in Lytle Creek. (Contributed photo by Mike Myers)

As San Bernardino County phases its way into safely opening up, some of the traditional recreational activities still remain closed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

But many cooped-up families in the Inland Empire took advantage of the warm weather by going to Lytle Creek in the San Bernardino National Forest for the Memorial Day weekend, the unofficial beginning of summer.

The roads were congested from the entry into the recreational area, all the way into the main town.

Pop-up canopies lined the riverbed, as people played in the water, sunbathed on the rocks and reveled at being out of the house.

However, several Lytle Creek residents are unhappy about the hundreds of cars and people who they say are making it hard for them in the town and on the roads. The residents have complained that visitors who come to the area don't respect them and the property where they live. The visitors bring in their trash and don't take it back with them, said one resident.

Residents worry that cars and crowds of people will make it dangerous if there's a fire, or if emergency vehicles have to get into the area.

Cindee Smith, a Lytle Creek resident, has been very critical about visitors who are not using social distancing and not using face masks. Smith wants authorities in the area to do more to enforce traffic laws and to control the visitors in the area.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/visitors-flock-to-lytle-creek-to-enjoy-outdoor-fun-during-holiday-weekend/article_ade234a2-9dff-11ea-8710-db0fee518e95.html

Fire is extinguished in Fontana on May 24

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: May 24, 2020

A fire was extinguished at a residence in Fontana on May 24, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

No injuries were reported in connection with the fire, which erupted at a single story, single family residential structure in the 17400 block of Grevillea Street.

Engine 71 responded to the fire and reported heavy smoke from the eaves, according to a message on Twitter by the Fire Department.

Battalion 121 assumed control of the situation and the fire was soon declared out. Four engines, one truck, one medical squad, one battalion chief, and one fire investigator were assigned to the blaze.

The cause of the fire was being investigated.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/fire-is-extinguished-in-fontana-on-may-24/article_072feac8-9e40-11ea-8b9b-73017a066a25.html

Hesperia plays hardball with illegal fireworks

Rene Ray De La Cruz, Victorville Daily Press

Posted: May 23, 2020, 8:24 PM



The Hesperia City Council approved an ordinance on Tuesday, May 19, 2020, that fines users of fireworks and rewards residents for reporting violations of the law. [DAILY PRESS FILE PHOTO]

HESPERIA — It could be a “banner year” for enforcement, citations and confiscations Bill Holland said after the City Council approved a municipal code change regarding the use of illegal fireworks.

During the Tuesday, May 19, meeting, the Hesperia City Council officially stepped into the fireworks citation arena by creating an ordinance that includes penalties for those using fireworks, including those designated as “safe and sane.”

The ordinance went into effect the same day and includes fines of \$1,000 for the first offense, \$2,000 for the second and \$3,000 for the third.

The ordinance also prohibits the possession, sale and use of fireworks in the city, but makes provisions for special events.

Deputy City Manager Rachel Molina told the Daily Press the ordinance includes rewards of up to \$1,000 per crime for those who report violations, with reward amounts generally “based on the value of the tip.”

Before the new ordinance, the city’s municipal code did not have a chapter regulating the use of fireworks. At that time, citations were issued only by enforcement agencies under the penal code, or the **San Bernardino County Fire** code.

Before the new ordinance, citations issued for violations ranged from \$500 to \$1,250 depending on the citing agency.

The Council also approved an amendment to the municipal code related to the Police Multiple Response Program that includes fireworks usage and possession.

By including fireworks in the program, deputies can now write the response form to the tenant or homeowner where the fireworks are being used, recovering the cost of the call for service and encouraging violators to comply with the law, according to city documents.

Over recent years, the city has experienced an increase in the use of fireworks, which is likely related to less county and state enforcement, a staff report said.

In 2016, former San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Hesperia Station Captain Gregg Wielenga told the Council that a wave of black market fireworks from Nevada began coming into Hesperia, which was evident during the Fourth of July weekend, the Daily Press reported.

Council member Brigit Bennington said, traditionally, fireworks in her neighborhood begin every night from May through the end of September.

Mayor Larry Bird said the city cannot expect the Sheriff’s Department and Code Enforcement to monitor the entire city looking for violators and invited citizens to help in the endeavor.

Holland said fireworks season in his neighborhood comes with “shuddering and shaking windows” as professional-grade fireworks explode and light up the sky.

Holland said the ordinance, “couldn’t come at a better time.”

The city is a member of the nationwide We-Tip program, which allows for anonymous reporting of illegal activity and offers rewards to those who provide information that lead to responsible parties being held accountable.

City staff will increase awareness of the program by adding it to the city’s advertising, outreach and communications plan to encourage participation in the hopes of reducing illegal fireworks in Hesperia.

<https://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20200523/hesperia-plays-hardball-with-illegal-fireworks>

Here's how San Bernardino County residents can help prepare for wildfire season

SANDRA EMERSON, The Sun / SCNG

Posted: May 22, 2020, 1:56 p.m.

With Memorial Day weekend marking the beginning of the wildfire season, **San Bernardino County fire** officials say they are working on plans to fight fires in the midst of the novel coronavirus crisis.

“We’re taking COVID very seriously and so should you,” county Fire Chief Dan Munsey said at a news conference Friday, May 22. “In the fire service, we’re also thinking how do we respond to fires in a COVID environment? How do we prevent COVID from being transmitted between the firefighters that have to, by necessity, work very close together.”

To fight against virus as they battle fires, Munsey said, firefighters will take social distancing precautions in the field and in camps.

Firefighters across Southern California are making similar preparations. Though the winter’s rains have meant less of the dry vegetation that fuels wind-driven wildfires, the high temperatures, low humidity and gusty winds of the summer pose a high risk.

San Bernardino County residents can help protect themselves and firefighters over the long holiday weekend by tending to overgrown and dying grass in their yards or other combustibles that provide fuel for fires to spread quickly, Munsey said.

With limits on businesses, parks and other areas still in place, Munsey suggested home-bound residents check out the county’s fire website, sbcfire.org, or the department’s social media pages, where firefighters read books to children.

Need another idea for the long weekend? Check out Netflix, Munsey said.

“I’d like to recommend some great fire movies,” he added. “There’s a bunch of them out there, so pick your favorite and sit back and relax and enjoy yourself.”

Munsey cautioned residents against using fireworks, which are still sold and permitted in some cities, cause enormous damage to the forests and houses every year. Fireworks can only be used July 4 and 5, where allowed, he said.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2020/05/22/heres-how-san-bernardino-county-residents-can-help-prepare-for-wildfire-season/>