



# NEWS



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## 16-year-old lifeguard saves woman's life in Twentynine Palms pool

Staff Writer, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: May 28, 2020



Daviahn Thrasher, 16, rescued a woman from the pool in military housing Wednesday, May 27.  
San Bernardino County Fire Department

TWENTYNINE PALMS — Daviahn Thrasher, a 16-year-old star on the Twentynine Palms High School and community swim teams, saved a woman's life as a lifeguard Wednesday, May 27.

Capt. Jay Dimoff from the **San Bernardino County fire** department said Thrasher was on duty as a lifeguard in the military housing swimming pool in the 5900 block of Desert Knoll when, just before 3:30 p.m., a woman in the pool suffered a seizure.

Thrasher took immediate action.

"The patient was underneath the water for approximately five seconds before she was brought to the surface by Mr. Thrasher," Dimoff said.

"Daviahn then used his skills that he had learned, just having been on the job for four days, and quickly moved the patient to the edge of the pool with a backboard," the fire captain said.

"Daviahn then transferred the patient from the pool onto the deck for arriving EMS units."

A 911 call was placed and a paramedic engine from the Twentynine Palms fire station and a Morongo Basin Ambulance crew were dispatched to the call, arriving within minutes.

Dimoff said the crews determined the woman had suffered a seizure while in the pool. She was driven to the hospital in stable condition, with anticipation of a full recovery.

"The quick and professional actions of Daviahn saved this patient's life," Dimoff said.

"Without his training and skills, the outcome of this emergency incident, would have been very different."

The fire department plans to make a formal presentation to Thrasher at a future Twentynine Palms City Council meeting.

[http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article\\_8905950a-a0fe-11ea-acc7-3f697ef75cd0.html](http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_8905950a-a0fe-11ea-acc7-3f697ef75cd0.html)

## Man killed in rollover crash on Highway 18 in Lucerne Valley

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News Group

Posted: May 27, 2020



fatal rollover crash lucerne valley (Photo by Pam Romero Hardwick)

LUCERNE VALLEY, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A man was found dead after he was ejected from a pickup truck that rolled Wednesday morning.

At about 6:30 am on May 27, 2020, **San Bernardino County Firefighters** were dispatched to a traffic collision on Highway 18 near Rabbit Springs Road in Lucerne Valley.

When first responders arrived they located an adult male down in the roadway and a white pickup truck several feet away. Despite life-saving measures, the male was pronounced deceased at the scene.

For reasons still under investigation, the westbound truck made a hard left-turn, struck a dirt berm and overturned. The male driver was ejected out of the passenger window of the truck, officials said.

Officers from the California Highway Patrol described the driver as a heavy-set male in his 40's and it's possible he could have had a medical issue prior to the accident.

The CHP Victorville station is handling the investigation and anyone with information is asked to call 760-241-1183.

<https://www.vvng.com/man-killed-in-rollover-crash-on-highway-18-in-lucerne-valley/>

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## Man killed in off-road crash near Johnson Valley

Jose Quintero, Victorville Daily Press

Posted: May 27, 2020 at 8:20 PM

LANDERS — A 31-year-old Fontana man was killed in a single-vehicle off-road collision that injured two others over Memorial Day weekend, authorities said.

San Bernardino County Sheriff-Coroner officials said Francisco Javier Macias was pronounced dead at the scene of the crash in the Johnson Valley area on May 24.

California Highway Patrol officials said officers, along with **San Bernardino County Fire** Department personnel, responded to the crash at Barnes and Boone roads, north of Means Dry Lake, and learned Macias was driving a 2020 CanAm off-road vehicle.

Authorities said “due to a turning movement” made by Macias, the CanAm rolled over. The two passengers, a 42-year-old Fontana woman and a 39-year-old San Dimas man, were transported to Desert Regional Medical Center with “suspected minor injuries.”

CHP officials said all three were wearing seatbelts, but not helmets.

“Any level of impairment is not known at this time and still under investigation,” CHP officials said in a statement.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20200527/man-killed-in-off-road-crash-near-johnson-valley>

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## **Highway 38 reopens after fire in San Bernardino Mountains**

**ROBERT GUNDRAN, The Sun / SCNG**

Posted: May 27, 2020, 7:40 p.m.

A vegetation fire near Highway 38 in the San Bernardino Mountains prompted temporary road closures while fire agencies throughout San Bernardino County worked to quell the blaze on Wednesday evening.

The San Bernardino National Forest said Highway 38 was closed between Bryant Street and Valley of the Falls Drive while it, Cal Fire’s San Bernardino Unit and the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department fought the fire, which sat at 15 acres burned as of 6:10 p.m.

Fire officials said the fire was a threat to homes in the area, but the fire was contained to 15 acres as of 6:45 p.m., and no structures had been damaged.

Highway 38 was reopened at around 8 p.m., according to the Forest Service.

The cause of the fire was under investigation.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2020/05/27/fire-in-san-bernardino-mountains-prompts-closure-of-stretch-of-highway-38/>

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## **Swimmer Drowns in Silverwood Lake While Violating COVID-19 Restrictions**

**Zev Blumenfeld, Mountain News**

Posted: May 27, 2020 5:06 PM



The swimmer and his friends hiked down to Chamise Cove from Highway 138, said State Parks Superintendent III Ryann Gill. Swimming from the shores of Lake Silverwood is currently prohibited.

A nineteen-year-old male drowned while swimming in Silverwood Lake over Memorial Day weekend.

Silverwood Lake, a reservoir and recreation area located northwest of the Lake Arrowhead and Crestline communities, is managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Over Memorial Day weekend, the reservoir’s beaches were closed and swimming from shore was prohibited due to California’s COVID-19 restrictions.

On May 23, at 3:55 p.m., the San Bernardino Sheriff’s Department received an emergency call, alerting them of a possible drowning.

State Parks Superintendent III Ryann Gill said the State Parks Department was notified at approximately 4 p.m. They dispatched a peace officer lifeguard and a seasonal lifeguard to the scene.

The personnel piloted a boat to Chamise Cove, located on the northwest side of the reservoir. The cove resides downslope from the Vista Point parking lot, accessible off of Highway 138.

Arriving at the scene, the rescue team contacted the reporting parties who were friends of the victim. The friends indicated the last known area in the water where the victim had been seen.

The seasonal lifeguard dove, searching the area. On his fourth dive, he found the nineteen-year-old unconscious.

“He was brought to the shore where lifesaving measures began,” Gill said. “The lifesaving measures were being [performed] by our staff—the seasonal lifeguard, the permanent lifeguard—and there was also a CHP (California Highway Patrol) officer on scene assisting, as well as a sheriff’s deputy.”

Two other state park responders arrived shortly thereafter to assist. **San Bernardino County Fire** Department personnel were also on scene.

Lifesaving measures continued during transport from the shore to the boat launch ramp, located on the lake’s south side. But the male remained unresponsive.

Gill said state park officials believe the male had been underwater for over twenty minutes before he was found.

“He was unresponsive the entire time—no pulse, no breathing...,” Gill said. “The swimmers were swimming across the cove — it was not a long distance.”

The victim, whose name has not been released, was a member of the United States Military. He was stationed at Edwards Air Force Base located northeast of Lancaster.

Per state COVID-19 restrictions, Silverwood Lake is closed to people swimming from the shore.

“We always advise people to swim where there’s a lifeguard is on duty,” Gill said. “They were swimming from an area of the lake that was not a swimming beach area. They had hiked down from the highway.”

The cause of drowning remains under investigation.

<https://mountain-news.com/news/39813/swimmer-drowns-in-silverwood-lake-while-violating-covid-19-restrictions/>

## Aztec Falls and Surrounding Areas of Deep Creek to Temporarily

Staff Writer, Mountain News

Posted: May 27, 2020, 4:59 PM



The crowds at Aztec Falls and nearby swimming holes have reached a tipping point, said Mountaintop District Ranger Marc Stamer.

Due to unsustainable overcrowding, officials with San Bernardino National Forest announced on May 22 that they would implement a closure of Deep Creek for an approximately 2.5-mile stretch in the Lake Arrowhead area.

The popularity of the creek's swimming holes, most notably at Aztec Falls, over the past several years has created a growing traffic and parking problem on the narrow Forest Service roads leading to the creek. "The crowds at Aztec Falls and nearby swimming holes have reached a tipping point," said Mountaintop District Ranger Marc Stamer. "We need to take a pause for the safety of everyone and protection of the river so we can come up with a plan for visitors to sustainably recreate."

Case in point, two weeks ago on Saturday, May 9, visitation grew to the point where parking spilled a half mile outside the National Forest border, creating a two mile road hike to the Splinters Cabin Trailhead, which accesses the creek. The hike to the nearest point on the creek is normally a tenth of a mile from the Splinters Cabin parking lot (Aztec Falls from the parking lot is approximately one half mile).

That same day, **San Bernardino County Fire** and Sheriff's Department units responding to a 911 call for an injury in the creek could not access the area. Parking along the single lane Forest Service roads created gridlock where vehicles had no room to pull over to let oncoming ones pass. To reach the injured visitor, the operation turned into an air rescue.

The next week, on Saturday, May 16, similar levels of visitation were reached, creating more gridlock on the Forest Service roads. San Bernardino County Fire could not get a type 3 engine into the area for general patrol and a California Highway Patrol unit became stuck in traffic for a few hours. San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department units were prompted closed the road for a few hours to relieve the congestion.

During the closure, Forest staff will work toward creating a recreation management plan for the area to address congestion and parking, as well as other challenges in managing this section of Deep Creek, including illegal campfires, graffiti and trash. The Forest Order closing the area is set for one year and may be lifted early or expanded.

The closure covers the creek going north from Splinters Cabin Trailhead to Devils Hole. The picnic area and Splinters Cabin Road (Forest Road No. 3N34D) will also be closed to vehicles and foot traffic. Thru-hiking the area on the Pacific Crest Trail will be allowed, however, starting the trail from Splinters Cabin will not be allowed at this time.

A violation of this prohibition is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both.

<https://mountain-news.com/news/39809/aztec-falls-and-surrounding-areas-of-deep-creek-to-temporarily-close/>

## **Redlands' household hazardous waste collection site will reopen May 30**

Staff Writer, Redlands Daily Facts / SCNG

Posted: May 27, 2020, 12:04 p.m.

The Redlands household hazardous waste collection site at 500 Kansas St. is scheduled to be reopened Saturday, May 30.

The site, which was open 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturdays before closing in mid-March because of the coronavirus pandemic, will be open 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Beginning with this weekend's reopening, the site will be staffed by **San Bernardino County Fire Protection District Household Hazardous Waste Division** staff, according to a news release.

The Redlands Fire Department has managed and operated the collection site since it first opened approximately 30 years ago. The department's Community Risk Reduction Division will continue to manage the city's household hazardous waste program.

The San Bernardino County Fire Protection District Household Hazardous Waste Division has been a partner with the city since the Redlands site opened, providing proper disposal and recycling of the collected waste and technicians staffing the site, and maintaining compliance with local, state, and federal regulations.

Over the years, the Redlands Fire Department has seen a significant increase in calls for service and the first responders often had to leave the site closed or shut it down to respond to emergency calls. In addition to creating an inconvenience for Redlands residents, that has also contributed to an increase in illegal dumping or abandoned hazardous waste, according to the news release.

Once all city services return to normal operation, staffing for the Household Hazardous Waste facility will be provided by San Bernardino County hazardous materials technicians. The change will allow Fire Department crews to focus more on emergency response and Redlands residents should see an increase in available hours to properly dispose of hazardous waste, according to the news release.

For information about proper disposal of hazardous waste, go to [www.cityofredlands.org/pod/household-hazardous-waste](http://www.cityofredlands.org/pod/household-hazardous-waste) and [www.sbcfire.org/ofm/hhw/HouseholdHazardousWaste.aspx](http://www.sbcfire.org/ofm/hhw/HouseholdHazardousWaste.aspx).

<https://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/2020/05/27/redlands-household-hazardous-waste-collection-site-will-reopen-may-30/>