News Headlines 06/25/2020

➢ Plane goes off runway at Upland’s Cable Airport, pilot injured
➢ New software will make fire hazard surveys more efficient, chief says
Plane goes off runway at Upland’s Cable Airport, pilot injured


Posted: June 24, 2020, 1:27 pm

Crews recover the wreckage of a single-engine aircraft that went off the runway after landing at Cable Airport in Upland on Wednesday, June 24, 2020. The pilot sustained minor injuries, authorities said. (Photo by Watchara Phomicinda, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG)

A single-engine aircraft went off the runway at Cable Airport in Upland after landing shortly before noon Wednesday, June 24. The pilot sustained minor injuries, authorities said.

There were no immediate reports of a fire or fuel leak, said Jimmy Schiller, a spokesman for the San Bernardino County Fire Department, which was called to the scene in the area of 2100 West Foothill Boulevard.

The pilot was the only person on board the craft, initially described as a CX-4, said Ian Gregor, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration, which will investigate the crash. The FAA was notified around 11:45 a.m Gregor said.

Records show the plane is owned by a Fullerton man, who also is a licensed pilot. The pilot at the controls of the CX-4 was not identified as of Wednesday afternoon.

The pilot had to be freed from the aircraft before he could be taken to a hospital, Schiller said.

The Thatcher CX-4 is described as a low-wing aircraft built from a kit.

The aircraft, in the livery of a World War II “Flying Tiger” plane, was removed from the area by forklift-and-crane rig later in the day.

New software will make fire hazard surveys more efficient, chief says
Jene Estrada, Hi-Desert Star
Posted: June 24, 2020

The Yucca Mesa fire crew arrives to help put out a wildfire in Joshua Tree last year.
County fire photo

SAN BERNARDINO — Fire Chief Dan Munsey hopes that new software will make homeowners more aware of fire threats on their properties. The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors approved a $307,732 contract with Agiline Software for the new software Tuesday.

The contract ends June 22, 2025, with two one-year options to extend.

Munsey said the land use services department has been working with the fire marshal to upgrade the software that manages the county’s fire hazard abatement program. In that program, county staff surveys properties and notifies owners of overgrown brush and other problems that could fuel fires.

Munsey told the board the software they use now is old and creating inefficiencies and errors.

He said the new contract is the fire department’s next step to work with property owners to improve fire safety.

Board member Josie Gonzales applauded the move and noted that making the public more aware of fires could help residents protect themselves and their homes.

“I know here last year we had a fire here in north San Bernardino and it took two or three homes,” she said. “Residents themselves felt there could've been some advanced warning or some mediation that could have helped prevent the loss of their homes. We’re aggressively trying to approve and expand our ability to prevent fires.”

The county surveys over 500,000 properties each year for fire hazards and compels the owners to get rid of hazards such as overgrown vegetation and accumulated flammable debris, according to a staff report.

About 50,000 notices are sent to property owners each 90-day season.

The board will meet again at 10 a.m. July 7. The meeting can be viewed online at http://www.sbcounty.gov/Main/Pages/ViewMeetings.aspx. The board has also reopened remote viewing centers, including the Bob Burke Government Center in Joshua Tree for live viewing of the event.