



# NEWS



## News Headlines 07/02/2020

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## Fire sprinklers extinguish blaze in single-family home

Carl Baker, Redlands Community News

Posted: July 2, 2020



Sprinklers put out this kitchen fire on Buena Vista Avenue before firefighters arrived.

Photo courtesy of the Redlands Fire Department

The Redlands Fire Department responded to a report of a structure fire at a home in the 700 block of Buena Vista Street Wednesday afternoon, July 1. The fire was extinguished by fire sprinklers prior to the arrival of fire crews. No injuries were reported.

Upon arrival, shortly after 2 p.m., firefighters found an extinguished fire in a single-story residence. The fire started in the kitchen and was contained to the room of origin due to the activation of a fire sprinkler.

Firefighters assisted the homeowner in changing the sprinkler head to keep the system active and with the removal of the residual water to limit the damage.

In addition to 18 firefighters from the Redlands Fire Department, firefighters from **San Bernardino County Fire Department** and Loma Linda Fire Department also responded. Firefighters were on scene for approximately 45 minutes.

The loss was estimated at approximately \$10,000. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

[https://www.redlandscommunitynews.com/news/public\\_safety/fire-sprinklers-extinguish-blaze-in-single-family-home/article\\_c336dca0-bc76-11ea-a563-4786738312af.html](https://www.redlandscommunitynews.com/news/public_safety/fire-sprinklers-extinguish-blaze-in-single-family-home/article_c336dca0-bc76-11ea-a563-4786738312af.html)

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## Coroner identifies victims of two highway crashes

Staff Writer, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: July 01, 2020, 3:18 PM

YUCCA VALLEY — Two people, Ramona Pedrosa, 81, and David Morse, 76, were killed in two separate collisions on Twentynine Palms Highway in downtown Yucca Valley Thursday.

Pedrosa died after the car she was riding in was broadsided by another vehicle on Twentynine Palms Highway at Airway Avenue around 3:04 p.m.

The Sheriff's Department said responding deputies determined that the driver of an Audi sedan traveling west on the highway broadsided a Volkswagen traveling north through the intersection of Airway Avenue.

Pedrosa, who riding in the passenger's seat of the Volkswagen, was driven by ambulance to Hi Desert Medical Center, where she died.

The drivers of both vehicles were also taken to local hospitals.

The Sheriff's Department did not disclose their injuries or identify them.

Hours later, at 10:41 p.m., Morse was trying to walk across Twentynine Palms Highway outside the crosswalk near Hermosa Avenue when he was hit by a westbound 2015 Jeep Wrangler.

**San Bernardino County** fire department Paramedics responded and pronounced Morse dead on the scene.

The Morongo Basin Major Accident Investigation Team is investigating the cause of both collisions. Anyone with information for investigators is asked to call the sheriff's station at (760) 366-4175.

<https://hidesertstar.mynews360.com/news/168122/coroner-identifies-victims-of-two-highway-crashes/>

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## **Southland Firefighters Concerned About Increase In Injuries, Wildfires Over July 4th Weekend**

Nicole Comstock, CBS 2 News

Posted: July 1, 2020, 11:08 pm



FONTANA (CBSLA) — With the Fourth of July right around the corner, firefighters across the Southland said they are concerned that more people might get hurt and start fires this year with fireworks as communities cancel events.

“I have to make sure I put on a good show for the kids,” Vincent Ju said.

Ju was buying a bunch of legal fireworks Wednesday from a local vendor to set off for his family this Saturday.

“We can’t go to the stadiums to check out the fireworks show, so I need to do my part as a dad,” he said.

Ju is just one of many across the region getting in line to load up on their own fireworks this year due to the cancellation of community shows in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

“Oh, we’re sad,” Carol Navarette said. “We’re very sad about it.”

But fire departments across the state are concerned about the increase in people purchasing fireworks — both legal and illegal — to put on their own shows.

“There’s a huge advantage to commercially produced firework shows,” Eric Sherwin, a **San Bernardino County firefighter**, said. “They’re done by professionals.”

He said amateurs have been setting off loud, illegal fireworks for weeks near his fire station in Fontana. Firefighters said they are concerned that more people will take the pyrotechnics into their own hands and will accidentally start fires or cause injuries.

“Nobody ever sets off a firework going, ‘Hey, let’s set the mountain on fire. Let’s disfigure a child,’” Sherwin said.

That threat is why the San Bernardino County Fire Department said it was staffing additional units throughout the weekend, especially in areas where the threat of wildfires is the greatest.

But Navarette said she was not worried.

“I think everybody’s going to be safe,” she said.

Though Ju said he was concerned, not about his own actions, but the actions of others.

“I live next to a hill, so if that hill goes up,” he said.

He said he always has water and a fire extinguisher on hand and does not allow children to set off fireworks at his home, but he knows not everyone is as cautious.

“I hear them in my neighborhood every single night,” he said.

And even if people legally purchase fireworks deemed safe and sane, but take them to neighborhoods where they are illegal, they can be fined up to \$1,250.

<https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2020/07/01/southland-firefighters-concerned-about-increase-in-injuries-wildfires-over-july-4th-weekend/>

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## **UPDATE: Fontana P.D. has confiscated 5,000 pounds of illegal fireworks as of July 1**

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: July 1, 2020



The Fontana Police Department is urging local residents to report illegal fireworks. (Contributed photo illustration by Fontana Police Department)

With the Fourth of July weekend approaching, the Fontana Police Department is continuing to crack down on the illegal fireworks that have been plaguing the city for several weeks.

As of July 1, the Police Department has seized more than 5,000 pounds of illegal fireworks and has issued more than 30 citations, said Kevin Anderson, a public information officer for the P.D.

The Fontana P.D. partners with the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department to collect the dangerous and illegal fireworks that are seized and then taken away for destruction.

"We are continuously getting tips and working on getting more of them off the street," Anderson said.

Fireworks not in direct control of the operator or that explode, shoot into the air, move along the ground and are not approved by the California State Fire Marshal are deemed dangerous and are illegal everywhere in the state of California.

"Fines for possession and use of illegal fireworks range from \$2,500 to \$10,000," said Fontana Police Sergeant Kellen Guthrie. "You can do your part to prevent the use of illegal fireworks in Fontana by purchasing and using Safe and Sane fireworks where permissible."

Residents can report illegal fireworks to (909) 350-7700 or the WeTip hotline at 1-800-47-Arson.

For more information about the use of fireworks, visit [www.fontana.org/fireworks](http://www.fontana.org/fireworks) or call the Fireworks Information Line at (909) 356-7101.

[https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/update-fontana-p-d-has-confiscated-5-000-pounds-of-illegal-fireworks-as-of-july/article\\_140704d2-bbb1-11ea-ac24-4f4134bc36c9.html](https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/update-fontana-p-d-has-confiscated-5-000-pounds-of-illegal-fireworks-as-of-july/article_140704d2-bbb1-11ea-ac24-4f4134bc36c9.html)

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## **North Etiwanda Preserve near Rancho Cucamonga closing for July 4th weekend**

Steve Scauzillo, San Gabriel Valley Tribune / San Bernardino County Sun

Posted: July 1, 2020, 3:58 pm



Visitors return to their vehicles in the North Etiwanda Preserve in this file photo. The popular hiking spot will be closed to prevent forest fires from the evening of July 3, 2020, until the morning of July 5, 2020. (Photo by Will Lester, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG)

Two fire-prone areas near Rancho Cucamonga will be closed during the Fourth of July holiday in order to keep out ignition sources — such as fireworks — that can touch off a wildfire, fire officials said.

The popular North Etiwanda Preserve frequented by hikers, equestrians, walkers, bicycle-riders and drive-in visitors, as well as Snowdrop/Santina Road, will be closed over the holiday, officials announced Tuesday, June 30.

These two areas will be closed from 8 p.m. Friday, July 3, through 6:30 a.m. Sunday, July 5. The closure of the North Etiwanda Preserve was ordered by the Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District and the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department. The preserve closure is supported by the San Bernardino County Special Districts, which manages the park.

“The North Etiwanda Preserve is a local treasure and a historically important place within our community,” Rancho Cucamonga Fire Marshal Rob Ball said in a prepared statement. “Those among us who insist on using fireworks over the 4th of July holiday put our homes and our open space recreation areas at risk of destruction from a wildfire started by fireworks.”

A rural, open space area that includes several homes surrounding Snowdrop/Santina Road will be closed by the Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District for the same reason, said Gabrielle Costello, community affairs coordinator.

Only residents, property owners and their guests can access the two roads during the closure, the fire district reported.

Although the fire district has not seen brush fires caused by fireworks recently in these two foothill areas, it is a possibility that is accentuated by dry brush and warm weather and is something the fire and open space agencies want to prevent from happening, Costello said Tuesday.

“We will be closing the (North Etiwanda) Preserve, so people don’t go in and light fireworks that can cause fires,” she said. The Preserve is located at at 4890 Etiwanda Ave.

The Snowdrop/Santina closure is also to “prevent the ignition of a wildfire due to dangerous fire conditions and past use of illegal fireworks in the area by non-residents,” according to a written statement from the fire district.

Anyone violating the closure orders in either place is subject to a \$1,000 fine.

All fireworks are illegal in the city of Rancho Cucamonga and the surrounding area that encompasses the Rancho Cucamonga Fire District.

Residents can report the use of fireworks to a non-emergency dispatch line at 909-941-1488.

Residents looking to celebrate Independence Day are encouraged to watch the city’s free aerial fireworks show from their lawns and backyards. The city is hosting a 15-minute pyrotechnic display from Chaffey College at 9 p.m. on July 4.

The college will be locked and no spectators will be allowed on campus, officials said.

For additional information about the area closures, residents can contact the Rancho Cucamonga Fire District at 909-477-2770.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2020/07/01/north-etiwanda-preserve-near-rancho-cucamonga-closing-for-july-4th-weekend/>

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## **SkyPark Campground Ready to Open**

**Angela Yap, Mountain News**  
Posted: July 01, 2020, 4:40 pm



Bill Johnson, owner of SkyPark at Santa’s Village, showing the SkyPark Campground layout for 70 RV campsites and tent sites.

Located across from SkyPark at Santa’s Village, the county-approved SkyPark Campground is ready to open this month.

“I am hoping to open our campground by mid July,” said Bill Johnson, owner of SkyPark at Santa’s Village. “Starting this Friday, July 3, anyone interested in camping at our campground can make reservations online.”

According to Johnson, the SkyPark Campground will open all year long, featuring 70 full-hookup campsites which include water, 50 amp electricity, wifi, sewer disposal and a dump station.

“Each campsite is 40’ in depth. It is built to accept big RVs to tent camping,” Johnson said. “Almost every campsite has a view.”

Each site has a concrete pad and will be landscaped mirroring the existing landscaping at SkyPark featuring native plants and trees.

The campground offers seven family restrooms equipped with changing rooms, hot shower, flush toilets and vanity area.

“Our pricing is based on a dynamic system based on occupancy. The average RV campsite is about \$100 per day, and tent camping is \$35 per day.”

“We have planted over 6000 trees around our hillside, and another 1000 within the campground,” added Johnson. “Most are seedlings like ponderosa, cedar, sugarcane and fir.”

The additional SkyPark parking development calls for additional major construction where CalTrans required a traffic signal and a crosswalk on Highway 18 now completed as SkyPark Way. A left-hand turn lane into SkyPark coming eastbound and right turn lane will lead to the campground across from SkyPark. Ultimately, these additional turn lanes will allow ongoing traffic on Highway 18 to avoid potential stops at the entrances.

The requirement of the traffic signal is for the pedestrian crossing, said Johnson.

“There is a 20,000-gallon water tank, and we have a fire protection plan in place and emergency accessible fire hydrant in the campground with two water taps for filling fire trucks and helicopters in case of emergency,” Johnson added.

There is a helipad and two helicopter parking spaces available for San Bernardino Sheriff and **San Bernardino Fire** in case of an emergency.

It is Johnson’s goal to make the hillside campground a destination for other activities.

“We want to host an RC Glider event and be a world-class venue,” said Johnson, who said the air current along the campground is ideal for such remote-control gliders.

As SkyPark was closed for over three months during the COVID-19 stay-at-home order, Johnson is extending an additional three months complimentary membership for all SkyPark annual pass holders; and extending another year for SkyPark Lifestyle pass holders.

<https://mountain-news.com/news/39866/skypark-campground-ready-to-open/>