



NEWS



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Illegal fireworks ignite several brush fires in the Morongo Basin

Jene Estrada, Hi-Desert Star

July 07, 2020, 4:51 PM



MORONGO BASIN — Possibly due to the cancellation of several Fourth of July events this year due to concerns surrounding the spread of the novel coronavirus 2019, illegal fireworks rained down over the Basin before, during and after the holiday.

Firefighters with the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department increased their efforts to combat the fireworks and put out eight brush fires over the weekend that were thought to have been started by illegal fireworks.

On Monday afternoon, Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle reported that the department responded to eight small brush fires over the weekend scattered throughout the Morongo Basin. Two of those fires, both in Joshua Tree, were confirmed to have been started by the shooting of illegal fireworks.

The other six fires are currently under investigation but are also thought to have been started by illegal fireworks.

“All of the fires were less than 10-foot diameter spots and were able to be put out quickly,” Tuttle said.

No one was hurt and no buildings were damaged by the flames, he said.

Tuttle said that, considering the dry climate and surge in fireworks, the situation could have been a lot worse.

He thanked local residents who used the department’s new online illegal fireworks reporter, which received dozens of reports over the weekend. Tuttle also reminded residents to practice fire safety during the summer months.

<https://hidesertstar.com/news/168148/illegal-fireworks-ignite-several-brush-fires-in-the-morongo-basin/>

SOME SMALL FIRES, 1 BRUSH FIRE CAUSED BY SOCIAL FIREWORKS JULY 4TH

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: July 7, 2020

With many Fourth of July fireworks and events cancelled or postponed due to the COVID-19 crisis, many Morongo Basin residents took it upon themselves to host their own fireworks shows this weekend. While several residents reported small fires from the illegal fireworks, Morongo Basin firefighters were only called out to one fireworks-related fire Saturday. **County Fire** Battalion Chief Brian James said the call for a small brush fire came in at 8:18 p.m. Saturday near Douglas Lane and Yucca Mesa Road in Yucca Valley. James said no witnesses or suspects were at the scene when fire crews arrived, who had the blaze out in under an hour.

Yucca Valley firefighters were also called to a small vegetation fire at 2 a.m. Friday morning. The blaze, located in the desert south of Yucca Valley near Hardesty Drive and Power Line Road, burned about a 50-square foot area of brush. Crews had the fire out in under an hour.

<http://z1077fm.com/some-small-fires-1-brush-fire-caused-by-social-fireworks-july-4th/>

County Fire Department responds to 200 fire-related calls, including some in Fontana, on July 4

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: July 7, 2020



Over a 24-hour period, the San Bernardino County Fire Department responded to more than 200 fire-related calls over the Fourth of July, including at least three major calls in Fontana.

The calls were for structure fires, vegetation fires and dumpster fires, and many of them were related to fireworks, according to Mike McClintock, battalion chief for the Fire Department.

"**SBCoFD** noticed a large increase in fireworks related fires, keeping crews busy department wide," McClintock said.

In addition, crews continued to respond to medical emergencies, traffic accidents and other routine calls.

Incidents in Fontana included:

- On July 4 at 10:11 p.m., a 1/4 acre vegetation fire at Baseline and Citrus avenues;
- On July 4 at 11:23 p.m., a residential fire in the 8400 block of Reseda Avenue;
- On July 5 at 1:28 a.m., a dumpster fire with exposures in the 14000 block of Chaparral Avenue.

Seven fires erupted in the City of San Bernardino on Independence Day.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/county-fire-department-responds-to-200-fire-related-calls-including-some-in-fontana-on-july/article_74e57776-c0ab-11ea-beda-873ff757c28c.html

COUNTY FIRE SEIZES MORE THAT 40,000 POUNDS OF ILLEGAL FIREWORKS

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: July 8, 2020

Under California law, all fireworks that explode, shoot into the air, or move along the ground are considered dangerous and are illegal to possess without a permit. That includes firecrackers, skyrocket, roman candles, mortars, and “chasers” that dart along the ground, and safe and sane fireworks that have been modified. On a typical Fourth of July, fireworks cause more fires in the U.S. than all other causes combined. In addition to fires, fireworks cause deaths, blindness, maiming injuries to children and adults, re-traumatize war veterans suffering from PTSD, and frighten household pets. Hilary Sloane says the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department confiscated tens of thousands of illegal fireworks over the last month...

The San Bernardino County Fireworks Interdiction Taskforce targeted key entry points into the county, specifically I-15 from Nevada, conducting vehicle checks and searching out illegal fireworks between early June and July 4. Investigators confiscated about 40,000 pounds of illegal fireworks during that time. In addition to distributing hundreds of warnings, the taskforce issued 245 citations resulting in \$306,250 in fines. This year, the county’s fire marshal implemented a new app—the Illegal Fireworks Reporter app—where the public could report the sale and use of illegal fireworks, and received more than 1,500 complaints on the app.

<http://z1077fm.com/county-fire-seizes-more-that-40000-pounds-of-illegal-fireworks/>

Nearly 40,000 lbs of Illegal Fireworks Confiscated

City of Colton Press Release, City Group News

Posted: July 7, 2020



Over a span of two days, Colton Fire worked in conjunction with San Bernardino County Fire and Rancho Cucamonga Fire and issued over 90 citations for illegal fireworks. Photo Courtesy of: City of Colton Fire

Colton Fire Investigators worked in conjunction with **San Bernardino County Fire** and Rancho Cucamonga Fire at an undisclosed location within San Bernardino County on Saturday, June 27, and Sunday, June 28 to reduce the amount of illegal fireworks in our community. During those two days, 93 citations were written and roughly 40,000 lbs. of illegal fireworks were confiscated.

<https://www.citynewsgroup.com/articles/nearly-40000-lbs-of-illegal-fireworks-confiscated->

S.B. County Task Force confiscates 40,000 pounds of illegal fireworks

Tracey Martinez, PIO, SBCoFD, Fontana Herald News

Posted: July 8, 2020

About 40,000 pounds of dangerous and illegal fireworks were confiscated by the San Bernardino County Fireworks Interdiction Task Force in June and July, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

Investigators from San Bernardino County Fire partnered with the Colton and Rancho Cucamonga Fire Departments to stop the illegal fireworks from entering the county. Investigators targeted key entry points into the county, specifically Interstate 15 from Nevada, conducting vehicle checks and searching out illegal fireworks.

In addition to distributing hundreds of warnings, the Task Force issued 245 citations resulting in \$306,250 in fines, with fines up to \$1,250 for the first offense with the possibility of arrest.

This year, the San Bernardino County Fire Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) implemented a modern technology called the Illegal Fireworks Reporter to request help from the public in reporting the sale and use of illegal fireworks. With more than 1,500 complaints, the Office of the Fire Marshal substantiated the use of fireworks and mobilized personnel to heavy use areas, while concentrating fire prevention and law enforcement patrols in those areas. Fire prevention officers referred complaints made in outside jurisdictions to local public safety agencies.

“The San Bernardino County Fire Department will remain vigilant each and every year to protect our communities from the risks associated with dangerous fireworks,” Fire Marshal Mike Horton said. “We face another dangerous wildland fire season this year. San Bernardino County Fire will remain vigilant in protecting public health and safety. We want to thank the public for helping us stop those that would try to smuggle these dangerous explosives into the county. If you see something, say something. Call the We-Tip Hotline at 1-800-47-ARSON (1-800-472-7766) or visit WeTip.com.”

The San Bernardino County Fire Office of the Fire Marshal turns over all confiscated fireworks to the State Fire Marshal’s Office for destruction.

Under California law, all fireworks that explode, shoot into the air, or move along the ground are considered dangerous and are illegal to possess without a permit. That includes firecrackers, skyrockets, roman candles, mortars, and “chasers” that dart along the ground, and “Safe and Sane” fireworks that have been modified.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, on a typical Fourth of July, fireworks cause more fires in the U.S. than all other causes combined. In addition to fires, fireworks cause deaths, blindness, maiming injuries to children and adults, re-traumatize war veterans suffering from PTSD, and frighten household pets.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/update-s-b-county-task-force-confiscates-40-000-pounds-of-illegal-fireworks/article_fb318f8c-c0aa-11ea-971b-27e4065a375e.html