



NEWS



News Headlines 07/09/2020

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EARLY MORNING STORAGE FIRE IN DESERT HEIGHTS

Staff Writing, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: July 9, 2020

County firefighters are investigating an early morning suspicious fire in the Desert Heights neighborhood of Twentynine Palms. Joshua Tree, Yucca Mesa, and Combat Center firefighters were called to the 1000 block of Friendship Avenue at 3:15 this morning for a fire in a big rig trailer filled with books, clothing, household supplies, and other items. County Fire Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle said crews were on scene for about 2 ½ hours putting out the blaze and mopping up. The residents were not at home at the time of blaze. There were no injuries.

<http://z1077fm.com/early-morning-storage-fire-in-desert-heights/>

Fireworks complaints more than doubled in 2020 in San Bernardino County

Brian Rokos, Press Enterprise / San Bernardino Sun / SCNG

Posted: July 8, 2020, 4:39pm

San Bernardino County residents shaken by blasts from illegal pyrotechnics this spring and summer swear they've never seen and heard so many fireworks. Well, they weren't hallucinating.

There weren't just more illegal fireworks shot off in the county this month compared to last July — there were a lot more. Try twice as much more.

That figure is suggested by statistics from the Sheriff's Department that show that in the contract cities and unincorporated areas it patrols, there were 2,918 reports to dispatchers of illegal fireworks from July 1-5 this year, compared with 1,434 calls for the same period in 2019.

While the number of calls resulting in "necessary action taken" — which could mean a citation, warning or a deputy being unable to locate the violation — almost doubled in 2020, the actual number of citations changed little. Fifty-six citations were written this year and 52 last year.

Where were the most calls? This year and last, the busiest areas overall were Hesperia and Victorville. In the valley region, Rancho Cucamonga residents called most often in both years.

"It is unknown for sure what caused the increase; it may be because people have been at home, and public shows offered in years past were canceled due to COVID-19," said Jodi Miller, spokesperson for the Sheriff's Department.

The San Bernardino Police Department, which patrols the city, made people pay for their actions. As a result of 1,634 fireworks calls from June 18 to July 5, officers wrote 164 citations and seized not just a ton of fireworks, but more than eight tons, a news release said.

"The Fourth of July was by far the busiest day for our enforcement teams," Lt. Michele Mahan said. "On that day alone, our dispatchers entered 346 fireworks calls for service. Our officers addressed each call and we also proactively enforced the fireworks laws through eye witnessing and pinpointing the violations. Our fireworks teams also responded to multiple fires, which were believed to be caused by illegal fireworks."

Not all the fireworks purchased made it to homes.

Investigators from the San Bernardino County and Colton fire departments and the Rancho Cucamonga Fire District teamed up to stop people from smuggling fireworks into the county from Nevada, where they are legally sold. From the month of June through July 4, the task force seized about 20 tons of fireworks, a news release said.

Investigators issued “hundreds of warnings” and 245 citations that resulted in \$306,250 in fines. Each citation came with a fine of up to \$1,250 for the first offense.

The county Fire Department this summer also launched a website where more than 1,500 fireworks complaints were lodged.

“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. “I want to thank the amazing men and women of the task force for their tireless efforts to protect the residents of San Bernardino County. We face another dangerous wildland fire season this year. San Bernardino County Fire will remain vigilant in protecting public health and safety.”

BY THE NUMBERS

40,000: Pounds of fireworks confiscated by San Bernardino County investigators from people trying to smuggle them in from Nevada

16,620: Pounds of fireworks seized by the San Bernardino Police Department

1,259: Fireworks calls to San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department from the valley/mountain regions from July 1-5, 2020.

276: The number of those 1,259 calls that came from Rancho Cucamonga residents

<https://www.sbsun.com/2020/07/08/fireworks-complaints-more-than-doubled-in-2020-in-san-bernardino-county/>

28 Tons Of Illegal Fireworks Seized By San Bernardino Police, County Fire

Katie Johnston, CBS 2 LA News

Posted: July 8, 2020



(credit: San Bernardino Police)

SAN BERNARDINO (CBSLA) — More than 28 tons of illegal fireworks were seized by San Bernardino police and **county fire** officials in the weeks leading up to the Fourth of July.

San Bernardino County Fire was also on high alert for illegal fireworks during the same time period, doing vehicle checks for illegal fireworks at key entry points into the county, particularly on the 15 Freeway from Nevada. San Bernardino County Fire spokeswoman Tracey Martinez said 20 tons of illegal fireworks were seized by a task force that included Colton and Rancho Cucamonga fire departments.

The task force also issued 245 citations resulting in \$306,250 in fines. Fines were as high as \$1,250 for the first offense with the possibility of arrest.

The seized fireworks were turned over to the State Fire Marshal's Office for destruction.

San Bernardino police say an increase in staffing between June 18 and July 5 primarily to focus on fireworks calls resulted in the seizure of more than eight tons of fireworks, 24 felony arrests, the removal of six illegal firearms and more than 50 pounds of illegal narcotics found.

Additionally, out of the 1,634 reports of illegal fireworks, officers issued 164 citations which carried increased penalties that were approved earlier this year by San Bernardino officials.

On the Fourth of July alone, dispatchers took 346 reports of fireworks. Police say the seized fireworks were taken to San Bernardino County Fire for proper disposal.

<https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2020/07/08/28-tons-illegal-fireworks-seized-san-bernardino-police-county-fire/>

Rock Climber Rescued

Staff Writer, Mountain News

Posted: July 8, 2020, 3:42 pm



Due to the terrain features and safety, a helicopter wasn't able to be used for the rescue

On 4th of July at approximately 1:38 p.m., the **San Bernardino County Fire** Crews were dispatched to the area adjacent to the 'Cliffhanger' restaurant off Highway 18 to rescue a rock climber who fell 30 feet and was injured.

The Crews made access in the area and found one adult male injured who was unable to self rescue. Due to the complexity of the call & risks involved, a Search and Rescue team was started, announced San Bernardino County Fire Department.

Crews utilized a rope rescue system patient from the rock face.

Ninety minutes after arrival, the patient was loaded to an awaiting ambulance for transport to a local trauma center in stable condition.

Due to the terrain features and safety, a helicopter wasn't able to be used.

San Bernardino Fire responded with two Engines, a Rescue, an Ambulance and a Battalion Chief.

<https://mountain-news.com/news/39875/rock-climber-rescued/>