



NEWS



News Headlines 07/14/2020

- Firefighters, residents tame fire in vacant lot in Highland
- 4 firefighters hurt after patio roof collapsed at suspected grow house in Phelan
- Fire crews attack wind-driven river bottom fire in Apple Valley
- The Valley Fire in Forest Falls remains at around 2-acres

Firefighters, residents tame fire in vacant lot in Highland

Eric Licas, San Bernardino County Sun / Orange County Register / SCNG

Posted: July 13, 2020, 6:38 pm



Highland resident Ryan Benson tosses a bucket of water on a brush fire in the 29300 block of Base Line St. in Highland Monday, July 13, 2020. The fire, which burned up to the backyards of several homes, was reported at approximately 1:30 p.m and was quickly brought under control. (Photo by Will Lester, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG)

Firefighters aided by local residents managed to gain control of a fire that burned in a vacant lot in Highland and was believed to have been caused by a lawnmower on Monday, July 13.

The blaze was reported at about 1:30 p.m. in the area of Clear View Lane, a small street that branches off of Weaver Street, north of Base Line Street, firefighters said. It scorched about 1.5 acres of vegetation before 35 firefighters from the **San Bernardino County**, Cal Fire San Bernardino Unit and Redlands fire departments managed to stop its growth at about 3 p.m., Cal Fire Battalion Chief Grant Milanowski said.

Crews were assisted by people near the 29300 block of Base Line Street who used buckets to dump water on burning vegetation as engines arrived. Homes could be seen through smoke rising from flames that were consuming yellow grass in photos shot Monday afternoon.

No injuries were reported.

Investigators believe flames may have originated from the use of a lawnmower to cut dried out vegetation amidst conditions ripe for fire, Milanowski said.

“You can use a weed whacker or something else, but you should never mow dry grass,” Milanowski said. “If you run over a rock and that causes a spark in a dry field, that’s it.”

<https://www.sbsun.com/2020/07/13/firefighters-residents-tame-fire-in-vacant-lot-in-highland/>

4 firefighters hurt after patio roof collapsed at suspected grow house in Phelan

Richard K. De Atley, San Bernardino Sun / The Press-Enterprise / SCNG

Posted: July 13, 2020, 5:22 pm



San Bernardino County firefighters battle a fire at a home in Phelan on Sunday, July 12, 2020. A patio roof collapsed on four firefighters, injuring them. (Courtesy San Bernardino County Fire Department)

Four firefighters were injured, two of them hospitalized overnight, when a patio roof collapsed on them as they battled a fire in a home in the High Desert town of Phelan that was as an apparent marijuana grow house, a **San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesman said.

The fire, reported just before 10 p.m. Sunday, was at the home in the 14400 block of Azalea Road when firefighters arrived, San Bernardino County Fire Department spokesman Mike McClintock said.

The house was more than 3,000 square feet, with a garage off the rear and a breezeway separating the two structures. While the garage was detached, it was near the home, McClintock said.

“Crews were trying to limit the fire’s spread by spraying water from the back patio area, and there was a collapse of a large stucco portion of the (patio) ceiling, that came down on the crews,” he said.

There was a “Mayday — firefighter down” radio call.

“It hit four of our firefighters, briefly trapping one of them, but they were all able to self-rescue or assist each other getting out,” McClintock said. He described the patio roof as an extension from the house. “It was pretty heavy when it came down on our guys,” he said.

Two firefighters were treated at the scene and two had moderate injuries and were taken to a trauma center. They were released from the hospital on Monday morning, McClintock said.

The fire took an hour to control. “Crews that were on the scene did find there was what appeared to be an illegal marijuana grow inside the home and the garage, which added some additional hazards” to fighting the fire, he said.

The damage to the home and garage was extensive, and a fire department bulldozer was used in the cleanup operation, McClintock said. No people were reported in the home at the time of the fire.

“Our fire investigators are working with the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department to determine cause and origin,” he said.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2020/07/13/4-firefighters-hurt-after-patio-roof-collapsed-at-suspected-grow-house-in-phelan/>

Fire crews attack wind-driven river bottom fire in Apple Valley

Rene Ray De La Cruz, Victorville Daily Press

Posted: July 13, 2020, 4:21 pm



A vegetation fire in the Mojave River bottom near Sitting Bull Road in Apple Valley was contained to 5-acres. The fire was fueled by brush and heavy winds. [PHOTO COURTESY OF THE APPLE VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT]

APPLE VALLEY — Firefighters endured temperatures near 100 degrees on Monday as they battled a vegetation fire in the Mojave River bottom near Sitting Bull Road in Apple Valley.

Reported at 11:47 a.m., firefighters with the Apple Valley Fire Protection District responded to the blaze, which was fueled by heavy brush and pushed by strong winds, AVFPD Fire Marshal Brian Pachman told the Daily Press.

At 2:50 p.m., Pachman said the blaze threatened nearby structures but the fire's progress was contained to 5 acres.

He added that 50 fire personnel battled the fire, including those with the AVFPD, Cal Fire, **San Bernardino County Fire** and Pilot Rock Conservation Camp.

There were no injuries reported from the fire and the cause of the blaze is still under investigation, said Pachman, who added that the blaze was possibly started by a homeless individual.

Pachman said Monday's blaze was the fourth fire reported in the same area in the last month.

<https://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20200713/fire-crews-attack-wind-driven-river-bottom-fire-in-apple-valley>

The Valley Fire in Forest Falls remains at around 2-acres

Rachael Gustuson, News Mirror

Posted: July 13, 2020



Flame retardant is dropped on the fire in Forest Falls. Photo by David R. Dickinson

The U.S. Forest Service and **San Bernardino County Fire** firefighters responded to a vegetation fire within the Vivian Creek Trail area in Forest Falls today, Monday, July 13. The flames broke out about 11:33 a.m.

As of 4 p.m., the fire is still actively burning and no word on containment. According to the U.S. Forest Service, there is no threat to Forest Falls residents or any structures. Two acres have burned, with a slow to moderate rate of spread. Air tankers are dropping flame retardant on the fire, as the terrain around the fire is steep and not easily accessible by firefighters.

The parking lot at Big Falls Recreation area is closed to the public.

The News Mirror will update the story as more information becomes available to us.

Update: 4:50 p.m., The forward rate of spread has been stopped and holding at one-acre. A hard line has been dug around the perimeter of the fire; however due to heavy fuel loading, difficult access and potential for spotting, the fire is not yet contained. Lots of interior pockets still burning. Air resources will continue through Tuesday.

Update: 8 p.m., All recreation areas are now open to the public. However, hikers should take precautions for firefighters working in the area, according to U.S.F.S.

https://www.newsmirror.net/news/the-valley-fire-in-forest-falls-remains-at-around-2-acres/article_12252a86-c55c-11ea-9419-73e31a6bddf5.html