



# NEWS



## News Headlines 07/24 – 27/2020

- Semi-truck fire on 15 Freeway in Cajon Pass spreads to brush; 10-acre blaze mostly contained
- Firefighters battling 10-acre blaze in Cajon Pass
- Arson suspect sets pick-up truck on fire in Adelanto
- Car hits fire hydrant in Fontana, sending water into the air
- Sheriff's helicopter crew conducts hoist rescue of Redlands man injured at Big Falls
- S.B. County officials take stronger steps to try to stop coronavirus
- Karen fire in Riverside, San Bernardino counties 97% contained
- 200-Plus Firefighters Respond To Karen Fire Burning In Jurupa Valley
- One injured in Friday boat collision
- CHP investigating fatal multi-vehicle crash on I-15 near Cima Road
- Crews respond to 2 separate house fires in Hesperia on Wednesday
- Washington named deputy chief of administration for San Bernardino County Fire Department

## Semi-truck fire on 15 Freeway in Cajon Pass spreads to brush; 10-acre blaze mostly contained

RICHARD K. DE ATLEY, The Press-Enterprise / SCNG

Posted: July 26, 2020 at 12:10 p.m.



A semi-truck fire on the 15 Freeway in the Cajon Pass north of Kenwood Avenue spread into a drainage ditch, and firefighters went to the scene of an approximately 10-acre blaze that closed two northbound lanes Sunday. (Courtesy San Bernardino National Forest)

A semi-truck fire on the 15 Freeway in the Cajon Pass north of Kenwood Avenue spread into a drainage ditch, and firefighters fought an approximately 10-acre blaze that closed two northbound lanes for about four hours Sunday, authorities said.

One of the lanes, on the freeway's right side, re-opened for traffic just before 2 p.m., Caltrans said.

The fire was reported just before 10 a.m. and spread shortly after that. The San Bernardino National Forest said just after 12 p.m. the fire's forward progress had stopped. By about 7:45 p.m., the fire was 80% contained.

"Crews will return tomorrow (Monday) to continue gaining containment," forest officials said on social media.

Caltrans had reported around 10:30 a.m. that outer lanes of the freeway on the right side were blocked due to the fire.

The big rig was hauling about 72,000 pounds of food, according to the California Highway Patrol log of the incident, which described the cargo as a non-hazardous load.

There were no reports of injuries.

The CHP said the fire spread into a drainage ditch. The U.S. Forest Service said it was responding to the fire along with **San Bernadino County Fire** and Cal Fire/San Bernardino Unit.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2020/07/26/semi-truck-fire-on-15-freeway-in-cajon-pass-spreads-to-brush-2-lanes-closed/>

## Firefighters battling 10-acre blaze in Cajon Pass

Jose Quintero, Victorville Daily Press

Posted Jul 26, 2020 at 11:49 AM



Firefighters were battling a fire in the Cajon Pass on Sunday morning. [PHOTO COURTESY OF SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST]

A Sunday morning fire in the Cajon Pass has charred at least 10 acres of vegetation just off Interstate 15, near Kenwood Avenue, and a SigAlert was issued with two northbound lanes closed.

San Bernardino National Forest spokesperson Lisa Cox said the fire was holding at 10 acres, just before noon, and firefighters are working on establishing a containment line.

“We are making good progress,” Cox said. “Firefighters will likely be out here all day mopping up.”

The agency responded to the blaze, reported as a tractor-trailer fire at approximately 9:58 a.m., on northbound I-15.

Personnel from the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department and CalFire also responded to the second-alarm fire to assist SBNF.

A SigAlert was called at 10:30 a.m. as the big-rig, hauling over 30 tons of food, was blocking the No. 4 and 5 lanes of northbound I-15.

The CalTrans QuickMap showed heavy traffic on northbound I-15, along with the southbound lanes. The No. 4 lane, according to CHP traffic logs, was reported open just before 2 p.m.

The tractor-trailer was removed, according to a 4:24 p.m. update, and a hazmat crew was requested to remove 25 quartz of oil in the dirt.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20200726/firefighters-battling-10-acre-blaze-in-cajon-pass>

## Arson suspect sets pick-up truck on fire in Adelanto

Staff Writer, VictorValley News

Posted: July 25, 2020



ADELANTO, Calif. (VVNG.com) — The Victor Valley Sheriff's Station is investigating a suspected arson fire that left one vehicle damaged, officials said.

It happened on July 22, 2020, at about 1:22 AM in the 10500 block of Arlette Court in Adelanto.

Sheriff's spokeswoman Lora Way told VVNG the victim's truck was unlocked when the suspect sprayed a suspected accelerant inside and lit the truck's interior on fire. **San Bernardino County Firefighters** responded and extinguished the fire. The interior of the truck sustained moderate damage stated Way.

Way said a video camera captured the incident and the investigation is being handled by Bombs and Arson. Officials did not release any footage and said other information was available for release.

<https://www.vvng.com/arson-suspect-sets-pick-up-truck-on-fire-in-adelanto/>

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## Car hits fire hydrant in Fontana, sending water into the air

MIKE MYERS, Fontana Herald News

Posted: July 25, 2020



San Bernardino County firefighters worked to shut off water to a fire hydrant that was sheared off by a car in the 16200 block of Baseline Avenue in the northwestern part of Fontana on July 25.

The Fontana Police Department is investigating if speed was a factor in the single-car accident at the intersection of Baseline and Oleander avenues.

According to a Fontana P.D. officer, at about 3:21 a.m., the driver of a black Honda Accord was driving westbound on Baseline, and for a reason unknown, hit the center divider at Oleander. The Accord knocked down a pole and rode the center divider before veering off to the right and colliding with a fire hydrant, sending water into the air.

Firefighters were able to get the water turned off in about 15 minutes.

The driver of the Honda was not injured.

The Fontana P.D. is investigating the incident.

[https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/car-hits-fire-hydrant-in-fontana-sending-water-into-the-air/article\\_13400a06-ce96-11ea-a524-2bb9fa7eb1d9.html](https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/car-hits-fire-hydrant-in-fontana-sending-water-into-the-air/article_13400a06-ce96-11ea-a524-2bb9fa7eb1d9.html)

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## **Sheriff's helicopter crew conducts hoist rescue of Redlands man injured at Big Falls**

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Press Release, Redlands Community News

Posted: July 25, 2020

San Bernardino County sheriff's helicopter 40King1 rescued an injured Redlands man at Bill Falls area of Forest Falls Friday afternoon.

At 5:30 p.m. July 24, the department received a 911 call reporting that Emilio Gomez, 33, had fallen and suffered serious but not life-threatening injuries.

Because of the steep terrain, a hoist rescue was conducted. The crew chief inserted an air medic approximately 100 feet down to the victim, followed by a Bauman Bag rescue harness. The air medic and San Bernardino County Fire Department personnel placed Gomez in the Bauman Bag, which the crew chief hoisted back into the aircraft. 40King1 then flew the victim to a nearby landing zone, where they transferred Gomez to the care of Mercy Air 285 for transport to the hospital.

Crew of 40King1  
Pilot Sergeant Daniel Futscher  
Crew Chief Reserve Deputy Steve Miller  
Air Medic Dr. Robert Katzer  
Air Medic Brad Adkins

[https://www.redlandscommunitynews.com/news/public\\_safety/sheriff-s-helicopter-crew-conducts-hoist-rescue-of-redlands-man-injured-at-big-falls/article\\_00a1cefa-ce9d-11ea-bbca-ffa5abdaceb.html](https://www.redlandscommunitynews.com/news/public_safety/sheriff-s-helicopter-crew-conducts-hoist-rescue-of-redlands-man-injured-at-big-falls/article_00a1cefa-ce9d-11ea-bbca-ffa5abdaceb.html)

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## **S.B. County officials take stronger steps to try to stop coronavirus**

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: July 25, 2020

Many local residents -- including some business owners -- are still not taking the coronavirus threat seriously, and that's why San Bernardino County officials are taking stronger steps to try to stop the spread of the virus.

After seeing a huge rise in cases recently, the county is implementing a COVID-19 Compliance Education/Engagement/Enforcement (EEE) Plan in coordination with local cities. The new campaign is designed to encourage compliance with federal, state and county public health mandates, the county said in a news release on July 24.

“Our county remains on the state’s Monitoring List, which restricts our ability to continue reopening our economy or allow schools to provide in-person instruction,” said Board of Supervisors Chairman Curt Hagman. “Getting off the list requires us to show tangible success in reducing new positive cases,

hospitalizations and ICU admissions -- and that requires strict compliance with various public health mandates.”

Earlier this month, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced the creation of Strike Teams comprising 10 state agencies working in conjunction with local officials. The Strike Teams, which are focusing on businesses that continue to defy safety mandates, include such agencies as the Alcoholic Beverage Commission, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the California Highway Patrol. The Education, Engagement and Enforcement Plan was established to support these Strike Teams.

“Our primary emphasis is on educating high-risk businesses about the critical need to comply with these directives, while offering guidance to assist them in these efforts,” Hagman said. “That includes engaging with business owners to make sure they’re aware of the resources we’ve made available. We prefer to avoid punitive actions but will have no other choice if businesses continue to disregard public health ordinances.”

#### ----- INITIAL FOCUS ON HIGH-RISK OPERATIONS

The plan’s initial focus will be on identifying high-risk businesses such as bars, restaurants and gyms; the county will also respond to citizen reports of companies flouting public health mandates.

The county will work with cities to coordinate efforts and share lists of these businesses, while allowing cities to take the lead in contacting businesses within their borders.

The **county fire marshal** and County Environmental Health Services Division will field a team of 30 inspectors who will be tasked with visiting businesses, confirm reported violations, and offer assistance to help them come into compliance. They will also share details of the industry guidelines developed by the state and encourage them to participate in the County’s COVID-Compliant Business Partnership Program.

#### ----- ENFORCEMENT AS A LAST RESORT

Businesses that continue to operate while ignoring public health requirements will be reported to the state Strike Team and/or local authorities for follow-up. Business owners or residents interested in reviewing the details can find a PDF of the EEE Plan on the COVID-19 website.

“Since our initial response to the pandemic, our goal has been to gain voluntary compliance from county businesses and residents, many of whom have suffered from COVID-19 and the resulting economic lockdowns,” said Sheriff John McMahon. “We want to help them survive and prosper -- while doing everything possible to halt the spread of this disease. But we need their cooperation if we are to succeed in this effort.”

[https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/s-b-county-officials-take-stronger-steps-to-try-to-stop-coronavirus/article\\_4b90560c-cebb-11ea-b658-2f1d4b57f603.html](https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/s-b-county-officials-take-stronger-steps-to-try-to-stop-coronavirus/article_4b90560c-cebb-11ea-b658-2f1d4b57f603.html)

## Karen fire in Riverside, San Bernardino counties 97% contained

By RICHARD K. DE ATLEY, The Press-Enterprise

Posted: July 26, 2020, 7:51 a.m.



Fire flares up in an open field near Armstrong Rd. and Alder Ave. in Jurupa Valley on Saturday, July 25, 2020. (Photo by Cindy Yamanaka, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG)

A brush fire that briefly threatened homes in Bloomington and Fontana was 97% contained Sunday evening, the Cal Fire/Riverside County Fire Department said.

That was up from 50% Sunday morning. The latest mapping put the fire at 277 acres, up from 250 acres measured Saturday night and Sunday morning. Of the burned acreage, 265 acres are in San Bernardino County.

The fire was set to be placed on “patrol status” Sunday night, with the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** the new lead agency.

Cause of the Karen fire, reported at Karen Lane and Sierra Avenue in the western Riverside County city of Jurupa Valley, near the border with San Bernardino County, was still under investigation. Several fire agencies responded to the blaze after it was reported just after 3 p.m. Saturday.

No damage or injuries were reported.

Pushed northeast by winds of 20 mph, the fire on Saturday advanced toward homes along Armstrong Road and Locust Avenue in the city of Bloomington, near the border of Fontana.

But dirt roads and a thick layer of fire retardant dropped between the fire and the homes slowed its progress, and no evacuations were ordered. A large number of fire crews were in place to protect the homes.

Forward progress of the fire was stopped by the evening.

About 225 firefighters, aided by six air tankers, were at the scene at the height of the fire. Smoke from the blaze could be seen throughout the area.

<https://www.pe.com/2020/07/26/firefighters-hold-the-line-on-karen-fire-overnight-in-jurupa-valley/>

## **200-Plus Firefighters Respond To Karen Fire Burning In Jurupa Valley**

CBSLA Staff, CBS 2 / KCAL 9 News

Posted: July 25, 2020, 8:32 pm

JURUPA VALLEY (CBSLA) — A wildland fire broke out on Saturday afternoon in Jurupa Valley, leading to a response of more than 200 firefighters.

The Karen Fire was reported just after 3 p.m. on Sierra Avenue and Karen Lane.

The fire grew from approximately 5-10 acres to roughly 250 acres as of 8 p.m.

Containment at last check was at 50% and 225 firefighters from Cal Fire, Riverside County Fire Department, City of Corona Fire Department, and **San Bernardino County Fire** were on scene battling the fire.

Forward progress on the fire has been stopped but resources are expected to remain overnight to monitor conditions.

No injuries or structural damages have been reported, and no evacuations have been ordered.

Sierra Avenue between Armstrong and the San Bernardino County Line has been closed.

Incident updates can be monitored at [rcvfire.org](http://rcvfire.org).

<https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2020/07/25/karen-fire-jurupa-valley-wildland-fire/>

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## **One injured in Friday boat collision**

BRANDON MESSICK, Today's News-Herald

Posted: July 24, 2020

A personal watercraft collided with a boat Friday afternoon, resulting in nonfatal injuries.

The accident occurred at about 2:30 p.m., near the area of Contact Point. According to Mohave County Sheriff's Sgt. Kyler Cox, the personal watercraft operator was ejected into the water and suffered possible injuries to his arm. He was ultimately pulled from the water by a nearby Lake Havasu City Fire Department watercraft, with patrol vessels from the **San Bernardino** and Mohave County Sheriff's Offices standing by at the scene.

The victim was transported to the nearby Lake Havasu Boating Safety Center, and transported by ambulance to Havasu Regional Medical Center.

[https://www.havasunews.com/news/one-injured-in-friday-boat-collision/article\\_7e986958-ce35-11ea-8406-a7219386a482.html](https://www.havasunews.com/news/one-injured-in-friday-boat-collision/article_7e986958-ce35-11ea-8406-a7219386a482.html)



## CHP investigating fatal multi-vehicle crash on I-15 near Cima Road

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: July 24, 2020



(Photo by Stacey Newlove)

MOUNTAIN PASS, Calif. (VVNG.com) — The California Highway Patrol is investigating a fatal multi-vehicle crash near the California-Nevada border that left one person dead and several others injured Friday afternoon.

It happened at about 2:35 PM on July 24, 2020, along the I-15 freeway between Bailey and Cima Roads, approximately 20 miles from Primm.

Emergency crews responded and found multiple vehicles involved in the crash with two of them overturned.

A white pickup truck overturned onto the shoulder and a second vehicle overturned and landed in the center divider. Several occupants were reportedly ejected and children were injured, according to radio traffic reports.

**San Bernardino County Fire** along with Clark County Fire both responded to assist. Firefighters pronounced one person deceased at the scene and requested a helicopter for a person with life-threatening injuries.

California Highway Patrol officers shut down traffic to allow the helicopter to safely land on the freeway. Multiple ground ambulances responded and transported 3-4 other people to area hospitals.

At 4:09 PM officials issued a SIG-ALERT due to the only one lane being open in the both north and south. The lane closures were expected to remain in effect to at least 9:00 PM, per the logs.

The California Highway Patrol Barstow office is investigating the crash and anyone with information is asked to call 760-255-5900.

UPDATE 7/25 @ 7AM — According to an update from the San Bernardino County Sheriff-Coroner office, Tyrese Arnold, 21, a resident of Bakersfield, was driving a 2007 Toyota Camry north on the I-15 when he struck the rear of a Toyota Tacoma. Both vehicles went into the center divider. Arnold was pronounced dead at the scene.

<https://www.vvng.com/chp-investigating-fatal-multi-vehicle-crash-on-i-15-near-cima-road/>

## Crews respond to 2 separate house fires in Hesperia on Wednesday

Staff Writer, VictorValley News

Posted: July 24, 2020



(House fire in the 10k block Carrissa Ave in Hesperia)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Firefighters with the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** responded to two separate house fires on Wednesday.

At around 12:54 PM on July 22nd, crews responded to the first residential structure fire in the 18000 block of Sutter Street in Hesperia.

When crews arrived to the scene, they found an attached garage fully involved with flames and extending into the home. Officials said the occupants of the home all safely evacuated. Several reptile pets, a cat, and the family dog were found and returned to the family.

Firefighters were able to stop the fire in the attic before it spread to the majority of the home. The fire was knocked down in approximately 40-minutes.

The second fire was called in at about 5:50 PM in the 10000 block of Carissa Avenue in Hesperia. Upon arrival, firefighters located a boarded-up home well involved with fire and heavy winds.

As firefighters approached they encountered power lines that had dropped from the building as well as a gas leak from the garage side of the building. The garage and a vehicle sustained significant damage and the structure was found to be clear of any occupants.

The cause of both fires remains under investigation and no injuries were reported by civilians or firefighters.

<https://www.vvng.com/crews-respond-to-2-separate-house-fires-in-hesperia-on-wednesday/>

## Washington named deputy chief of administration for San Bernardino County Fire Department

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: July 24, 2020



Bertral Washington has been named the deputy chief of administration for the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

Bertral Washington has been named the deputy chief of administration for the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

Washington will oversee the department's planning and accreditation, training and safety, emergency medical services, support (vehicle and warehouse) services, and community risk reduction efforts.

"Chief Washington has a wealth of knowledge and experience in the fire service," said Fire Chief Dan Munsey. "His diverse experience as a chief officer, coupled with his strong foundation of innovation, strategic planning, and leadership development, will assist our management team in leading this department into the future."

Washington comes to the Fire District with more than 25 years of experience in the fire service. Until recently, he served as the fire chief for the City of Pasadena for more than five years.

Washington has a strong educational background which includes a Master's degree in public administration, a Bachelor's degree in political science, and an Associate degree in fire science management. He is a graduate of the Senior Executives in State and Local Government program at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

[https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland\\_empire\\_news/washington-named-deputy-chief-of-administration-for-san-bernardino-county-fire-department/article\\_b8708fb8-cdd4-11ea-a6d0-b32a51b861c0.html](https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland_empire_news/washington-named-deputy-chief-of-administration-for-san-bernardino-county-fire-department/article_b8708fb8-cdd4-11ea-a6d0-b32a51b861c0.html)