



NEWS



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FIRE BURNS ICONIC DINER ON ROUTE 66 NEAR CHAMBLESS

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: July 30, 2020



While the building of the Roadrunner Retreat restaurant is still standing, the contents inside the building were completely destroyed in the fire. Photo courtesy San Bernardino County Fire Department

An iconic stop on Route 66 near Chambless was burned in a fire Wednesday afternoon. **County Fire** Battalion Chief Donnie Vilorio said workers who had just finished their shift in Cadiz noticed the fire at the Roadrunner Retreat, but because they didn't have cell reception, they had to go somewhere else to get reception to call in the blaze about 2:30 p.m. Vilorio said the Roadrunner Retreat is in such a remote area on Route 66 that the fire had been burning for hours before anyone noticed. He added that while the diner building is still standing, all the contents inside were destroyed. The Roadrunner gas station was not affected by the fire. Vilorio said that the owner of the Roadrunner Retreat was notified of the fire by fans of a Route 66 social media page. The cause of the fire is suspicious in nature. A fundraising page has been set up to help the owner.

<https://www.facebook.com/donate/767454964005664/1374742472719650>

<http://z1077fm.com/fire-burns-iconic-diner-on-route-66-near-chambless/>

CORONER IDENTIFIES TWENTYNINE PALMS MAN KILLED IN JOSHUA TREE CRASH WEDNESDAY

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: July 30, 2020



Richard Lorge, 77, of Twentynine Palms, was the driver of the Toyota pickup truck who died at Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs following a crash Wednesday on Highway 62 just east of the CHP office. Photo courtesy San Bernardino County Fire Department

A Twentynine Palms man is dead and another critically injured following a two-vehicle crash in Joshua Tree Wednesday morning. According to the California Highway Patrol, Bronson White, 62, of Twentynine Palms, was driving a 2003 Ford Thunderbird westbound on Highway 62. About 10:43 a.m., for unknown reasons White's car drifted onto the north shoulder of the highway, just east of the CHP office. White lost control and turned the wheel of the Thunderbird to the left; the car began to spin and crossed all lanes of traffic before the

right front of the car struck the left front of a Toyota pickup truck, driven by Richard Lorge, 77, who was driving eastbound on the highway. After the collision, both vehicles came to rest in the number 2 lane and south shoulder of the highway. Firefighters from Joshua Tree, Yucca Valley, and Yucca Mesa had to use the Jaws of Life to extricate Lorge. Richard Lorge was taken by Morongo Basin Ambulance to Hi-Desert Medical Center and then flown to Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs where he was pronounced deceased. Bronson White also suffered critical injuries and was taken by MBA to Hi-Desert Medical Center. Seatbelts were used by both drivers. Fire and paramedic crews were on scene for about 2 ½ hours.

<http://z1077fm.com/coroner-identifies-twentynine-palms-man-killed-in-joshua-tree-crash-wednesday/>

Fire Crews Battle Blaze At Abandoned School In San Bernardino

Staff Writer, CBS 2 KCAL 9 News

Posted: July 30, 2020, 11:16 pm



Fire crews battled a blaze at an abandoned school in San Bernardino Wednesday night. (CBSLA)

SAN BERNARDINO (CBSLA) — **San Bernardino County Fire** Department crews were working late Wednesday night to contain a fire at an abandoned school.

According to the fire department, the blaze was reported shortly after 10 p.m. at the structure in the 1500 block of West 7th Street in San Bernardino. When crews arrived, heavy smoke and fire was already showing from the single-story structure.

Fire crews were quickly forced to assume a defensive position after the flames caused a partial roof collapse and heavy winds in the area contributed to the fire's spread.

Crews closed off access to West 7th Street in the area of the fire as 46 firefighters were working to contain the blaze.

One firefighter suffered a minor injury and was treated on scene.

There was no word on what might have sparked the fire.

<https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2020/07/29/fire-crews-battle-blaze-at-abandoned-school-in-san-bernardino/>

Abandoned school burns in San Bernardino

Staff Writer, San Bernardino SUN

Posted: July 29, 2020, 10:47 pm



(@FirePhotoGirl retrieved from SBCoFD Twitter)

An abandoned school burned in a three-alarm fire on Wednesday night in San Bernardino, officials said.

The fire was in the area of the 1500 block of 7th and 8th streets in a boarded-up structure, the San Bernardino County Fire Department said on social media at 10:11 p.m.

The cause of the fire was not immediately known. One firefighter sustained a minor injury, officials said.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2020/07/29/abandoned-school-burns-in-san-bernardino/>

Fire crews battling 25-acre brush fire burning in the Cajon Pass

Staff Writer, VictorValley News Group

Posted: July 29, 2020



UPDATE @ 8:30 PM – The San Bernardino National Forest is reporting the fire has grown to 185 acres, and 10% containment. There are still no evacuations at this time, however, the road into Lytle Creek is only open to residents. Approximately 230 personnel are assigned to the incident.

UPDATE @ 4:40 PM — The fire is now 50 acres with a moderate rate of spread acres and a potential rate of spread of 200-300 acres.

—original article—

CAJON PASS, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Fire crews are keeping busy fighting a brush fire in the Cajon Pass, west of the I-15 freeway Wednesday afternoon.

The fire was reported at about 3:25 PM on July 29, 2020, in the area of Keenbrook Rd and Cajon Blvd or more commonly known as old Route 66.

According to initial reports, the fire dubbed the #BrookFire, is 25 acres with a moderate to rapid rate of spread with strong winds reported in the area. The fire has a potential of 50-100 acres, prompting a second-alarm response.

The U.S. Forest Service has taken the lead on the incident and **San Bernardino County Fire** along with Calfire BDU are assisting. Air support is currently overhead assisting with firefighting efforts and additional type-1 air tankers have been requested to respond.

The smoke from the fire is currently not affecting traffic along the I-15 freeway and the cause of the fire is under investigation.

Authorities have requested a hard closure on Old Cajon Blvd and Keenbrook Road for an unknown duration.

Check back for updates, additional information will be updated as it becomes available.

<https://www.vvng.com/fire-crews-battling-25-acre-brush-fire-burning-in-the-cajon-pass/>

Brush fire in Cajon Pass at 10% containment

BRIAN ROKOS, The Press-Enterprise / SCNG / Daily Bulletin

Posted: July 29, 2020, 6:14 p.m.



A brush fire west of the 15 Freeway in the Cajon Pass on July 29, 2020, prompted the closure of local roads. (Courtesy of San Bernardino National Forest)

A brush fire burning west of the 15 Freeway in the Cajon Pass on Wednesday, July 29, prompted a temporary miles-long closure of a road that parallels the highway but was not threatening any structures, the San Bernardino National Forest said.

“Firefighters are making good progress,” a Twitter message from the San Bernardino National Forest said about 6:45 p.m.

The Brook fire had burned 185 acres and was 10% contained as of about 7:45 p.m.

Cajon Boulevard had been closed between Keenbrook and Cleghorn roads. Also, Lytle Creek Road had been closed at Glen Helen Boulevard to all but local traffic.

Both roads had reopened by about 9 p.m., the San Bernardino National Forest said in a tweet. “Fire crews will remain on scene overnight,” the tweet said.

No evacuations had been ordered.

The cause of the fire was under investigation.

The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department and the Cal Fire San Bernardino Unit were assisting.

<https://www.dailybulletin.com/2020/07/29/brush-fire-in-cajon-pass-prompts-road-closures/>

Firefighters battling wildfire in Cajon Pass

Martin Estacio, Victorville Daily Press

Posted: July 29, 2020, 4:42pm



The Brook Fire burns near Cajon Boulevard and Keenbrook Road on Wednesday, July 29, 2020. [PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. FOREST SERVICE]

Over 200 firefighters are battling a brush fire in the Cajon Pass that is burning near the site of a previous destructive fire in 2016.

Dubbed the Brook Fire, as of Wednesday evening, the fire was 200 acres in size — up from 25 acres at 4:15 p.m. — and burning at a moderate to rapid rate of spread, said U.S. Forest Service spokesperson Lisa Cox.

The fire was 0% contained, as of around 6:40 p.m.

The fire was first reported at 3:17 p.m. to the California Highway Patrol. Cox said the blaze was burning in the mountains about a half-mile northwest of Cajon Boulevard and Keenbrook Road.

She said multiple resources were at the scene and more were being requested, including firefighting aircraft and hand crews. Officials said about 230 firefighters, including air crews, were working on the fire late Wednesday evening.

Mountain Lakes Resorts in Lytle Creek posted on Facebook shortly after 5 p.m. that it was being evacuated “due to an unexpected fire.” Cox, however, said no evacuations were being ordered.

In a tweet, the Forest Service said residents near the Brook Fire were “free to self-evacuate if desired.”

Cajon Boulevard was closed between Cleghorn Road and Kenwood Avenue as of 6 p.m. Lytle Creek Road was also closed at Glen Helen Boulevard except for local traffic, according to the Forest Service’s Twitter account.

The agency tweeted that **San Bernardino County Fire** and Cal Fire were also responding.

County Fire tweeted they were assisting with five engines, two water tenders, four chief officers, one hand crew and a dozer.

On Wednesday afternoon, Cox said no structures were being threatened. She said the origin of the fire is in the area where the Blue Cut Fire charred more than 36,000 acres in August 2016 and destroyed 105 homes.

Temperatures in the high 90s were being reported in the Lytle Creek area as of Wednesday evening, according to the National Weather Service.

The NWS issued a heat advisory for both San Bernardino and Riverside County valleys, and predicted temperatures of up to 108 degrees on Thursday.

An excessive heat warning was also issued by the agency for many High Desert locales, including Apple Valley and Lucerne Valley, with “dangerously hot conditions” expected and temperatures of up to 110 degrees.

Both the advisory and warning go into effect from 11 a.m. Thursday and will remain in effect until 9 p.m. Saturday.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20200729/firefighters-battling-wildfire-in-cajon-pass>