



NEWS



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LOCAL BATTALION CHIEF TALKS ABOUT FIGHTING THE APPLE FIRE

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM NEWS

Posted: August 12, 2020



San Bernardino County Fire Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle is leading a strike team of five fire engines at the Apple Fire near Cherry Valley. San Bernardino County Fire photo

A **San Bernardino County Fire** Battalion Chief from Yucca Valley led a strike team of five county fire engines and their crews in fighting the Apple fire in Banning, Beaumont, and Oak Glen last week. Managing editor Tami Roleff talked with the chief and files this report...

“We train when we sign up to be firefighters. We like fighting fire.”

County Fire Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle was one of the 2800 firefighters who were called from around the country to help the Apple fire. He left Yucca Valley just a couple hours after the fire started and didn't return until Saturday morning.

“We work 24-hour work cycles; so we have 24 hours we're on the fireline and then off for 24 hours.”

He said it's not hard to stay awake.

“You have adrenaline flowing and there's lots of activity to keep you going.”

Tuttle said he and his strike team were defending houses from the encroaching flames, first in the Cherry Valley area, then the Banning Bench, and Oak Glen areas. The first night, firefighters laid down 7000-8000 feet of hose line to surround and protect a mobile home park.

When firefighters arrive, they have a procedure to follow.

“We do a quick assessment of the house, see what kind of threat potential, and we start doing prep. If the homeowners haven't done their own clearing, we clear vegetation, lay hose lines.”

Tuttle urges people to leave if they are ordered to evacuate.

“Number 1 for safety. Number 2, when there's homeowners in the area and the fire gets so intense they decide they have to leave, and we have fire engines coming in, and we have homeowners leaving, the streets get congested, and it just hampers the fire efforts.”

And he said staying behind to water down your house with a garden hose is basically useless.

“A garden hose is no comparison to a fire hose. The heat from the fire is going to drive the moisture out before the fire even gets there.”

While he enjoyed being in the thick of the firefighting, Tuttle said he’s glad to be home.

“After nine days, I was ready to come home.”

As of this morning, the Apple fire is at 33,424 acres and is 60 percent contained.

A crew of firefighters from Morongo Valley returned Tuesday after helping for about five days at the Stagecoach fire in Kern County, just south of Lake Isabella.

<http://z1077fm.com/local-battalion-chief-talks-about-fighting-the-apple-fire/>

San Bernardino County, CA, Fire Boat

Staff Writer, Lake Assault Boats / Firehouse

Posted: August 11, 2020



Lake Assault Boats has placed Fireboat 96 into service with the San Bernardino County, CA, Fire District. The 28-foot long vessel serves on Big Bear Lake, and is similar to one stationed on the Colorado River. The massive Apple Fire is seen on the horizon. Courtesy Johnathan Duarte

SUPERIOR, WI (August 11, 2020) – Lake Assault Boats, a leading manufacturer of purpose-built and mission-specific fire and rescue boats, has delivered its third fire and rescue boat to the **San Bernardino County Fire** Protection District (SBCFPD) in California. The 28-foot long vessel is serving on California’s Big Bear Lake, and is similar to one stationed in Needles, California on the Colorado River.

“We’re thrilled to deliver and place into service a third fire and rescue craft to the San Bernardino County Fire District,” said Chad DuMars, Lake Assault Boats vice president of operations. “Like our other Lake Assault Boats units in service with SBCFPD, this new craft is equipped to handle a wide range of emergency scenarios, and is outfitted with particular features for a high altitude lake.”

Big Bear Lake is situated at over 6,700 feet above sea level. “Because of Big Bear’s elevation, we’ve added a fully-enclosed pilothouse and a reinforced hull that will enable us to push through ice in emergency situations,” explained Brian Wells, an SBCFPD Engineer. “This new craft has all of the capabilities of our other Lake Assault Boats vessels that are performing at a very high level.”

The fireboat is outfitted with twin 350 hp Mercury Verado outboard engines controlled through the one-touch Skyhook Digital Anchor and Joystick Piloting systems. A 1500 gpm Darley pump (powered by a dedicated V-8 engine) along with a TFT monitor and three discharge ports comprise the heart of its firefighting

capabilities. A 63-inch hydraulically operated bow door (with an integrated ladder), dual dive doors, and a fully enclosed pilothouse provide protection from the elements.

The onboard electronics include dual 12-inch touchscreens mounted on the dash, Garmin radar and sonar with SideVu and DownVu, chart plotting, and a forward looking infrared (FLIR) system. Lake Assault Boats provided three days of on-the-water orientation ahead of the boats being put into service.

“Lake Assault Boats is our vendor of choice and we’re very pleased with the design, build quality, and support we receive from their entire team,” added Wells. “We continue to refine the specs to meet the growing needs of our department’s on-the-water response capabilities in San Bernardino County.”

ABOUT SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

San Bernardino County – at 20,160 square miles – is the largest county in the continental U.S. The county features a population of over 2.2 million residents and encompasses extremely diverse environments that stretch from Los Angeles County on the west, to the Colorado River on the east, to the Nevada state line and Kern and Inyo counties to the north. County Fire protects more than 60 communities, including the cities of Needles, Fontana, Grand Terrace, Victorville, Hesperia, Yucca Valley, and Adelanto. The department has 81 different facilities, 1,200 employees, and hosts the California Urban Search and Rescue Team.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department is an all-risk/full-service fire department committed to providing the highest level of service in the most efficient and cost-effective manner to the citizens and communities that we serve. Our jurisdiction encompasses 19,278 square miles of extremely diverse environments that stretch from the Los Angeles County line on the west, to the Colorado River on the east, to the Nevada State line and Kern and Inyo counties on the north. We provide services to more than 60 communities/cities and all unincorporated areas of the county.

ABOUT LAKE ASSAULT BOATS

Lake Assault Boats are born in a shipyard, designed for a mission, tested on Lake Superior, and custom engineered using technology and resources unmatched in the fireboat industry. Lake Assault offers a wide range of custom hull designs and configurations suitable for use on inland lakes and rivers, and intercoastal and offshore waters, to meet the needs of first responders. What mission can we help you perform? For more information visit www.lakeassault.com.

<https://www.firehouse.com/apparatus/type/boats/press-release/21149824/firefighting-fire-and-rescue-boats-and-marine-craft-lake-assault-boats-san-bernardino-county-ca-fire-boat>

Downed Power Lines Blocking Arrowhead Lake Rd in Hesperia

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: August 11, 2020



HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Downed power lines are blocking a stretch of busy Arrowhead Lake Road near Randall Road in Hesperia.

At about 5:22 PM on August 11th **San Bernardino County Fire** responded to the scene and located the snapped utility pole with low hanging high-tension wires across the roadway. Firefighters requested law enforcement to expedite to the scene and shut down the roadway

Southern California Edison will respond to complete the repairs and at this time it's unknown how long the roadway will remain closed for. According to CHP incident logs, officials are providing traffic control.

Additional information will be updated as it becomes available.

<https://www.vvng.com/downed-power-lines-blocking-arrowhead-lake-rd-in-hesperia/>

Rollover crash in Hesperia shuts down 15 freeway Tuesday, 2 airlifted

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: August 11, 2020



HESPERIA, Calif.(VVNG.com) — Traffic along the northbound I-15 freeway remains jammed after it was briefly shutdown to land two helicopters Tuesday.

It was reported at 11:53 a.m. on August 11, 2020, about a mile before Main Street in Hesperia.

For reasons still unknown, the four-door sedan rolled over and landed on it's roof in a drainage ditch along the right shoulder of the freeway.

San Bernardino County Fire responded to the incident and located two people with critical injuries inside the tan colored vehicle.

Firefighters requested that the California Highway Patrol shut down traffic in order to allow the two helicopters to land on the freeway.

A Mercy Air helicopter landed first followed by a Reach helicopter and both occupants were airlifted to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

The Victorville CHP is handling the investigation and anyone with information is asked to call 760-241-1186.

<https://www.vvng.com/rollover-crash-in-hesperia-shuts-down-15-freeway-tuesday-2-airlifted/>