



# NEWS



## News Headlines 08/01 – 04/2020

- Drowning reported on Big Bear Lake
- National Trails Highway in Oro Grande closed due to fatal crash
- Saturday morning accident on SB-15 in Cajon Pass prompts freeway closure
- Brush fire stopped at 160 acres in La Loma Hills area of Colton
- Person airlifted after crash on Rancho Road in Oak Hills
- Apple Fire day four: 5% contained; Pioneertown and Rimrock still advised to be ready
- MASSIVE "APPLE" FIRE ABOUT 14 MILES WEST, NOW UP TO OVER 26,000 ACRES
- 20,000-Acre Apple Wildfire in Southern Calif. Remains 0% Contained
- FIRE IN CHERRY VALLEY SENDS SMOKE TO THE MORONGO BASIN
- Update: Apple Fire continues to burn

## Drowning reported on Big Bear Lake

Judi Bowers, Big Bear Grizzly

Posted: August 2, 2020



Members of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department dive team on board the County Fire Department boat on Big Bear Lake Aug. 2. The dive team and the Fire Department crew assisted in the search and recovery of a drowning victim who went missing on Aug. 1. JUDI BOWERS/Big Bear Grizzly

A search resumed Sunday Aug. 2 on Big Bear Lake for the body of a person presumed drowned after jumping off a boat on Aug. 1

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department's dive team was called into assist in the search and recovery effort. The body was reported to have been located as of early afternoon on Aug. 2.

Unconfirmed reports are that the victim was a 26-year-old male who apparently jumped off a boat near the Big Bear Solar Observatory and didn't resurface. Emergency personnel were notified around 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 1. Authorities searched for the victim for some time. The dive team was assisted on Saturday and Sunday by the Sheriff's Department helicopter. Sonar was also used to help locate the victim.

On Sunday morning, The Big Bear Municipal Water District Lake Patrol, Sheriff's Department **and San Bernardino County Fire**/Fawnskin boats cordoned off areas of Big Bear Lake to continue the search west of the Observatory. It's unknown exactly where the victim was located.

[https://www.bigbeargrizzly.net/news/drowning-reported-on-big-bear-lake/article\\_6071b0b2-d4ff-11ea-9ec4-ebfecc1308a5.html](https://www.bigbeargrizzly.net/news/drowning-reported-on-big-bear-lake/article_6071b0b2-d4ff-11ea-9ec4-ebfecc1308a5.html)

## National Trails Highway in Oro Grande closed due to fatal crash

Staff Writer, VictorValley News

Posted: August 2, 2020



ORO GRANDE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — One driver was killed and a second was airlifted after an early morning crash on National Trails Highway in the small community of Oro Grande.

The two-vehicle crash was reported near Bryman Road just before 6:00 AM on Sunday, August 2, 2020. According to the California Highway Patrol incident logs, the crash left a female trapped inside of an SUV.

When first responders arrived at the scene they located a brown 2018 Toyota Highlander on the shoulder and a 1991 Honda Civic overturned in the middle of the roadway.

Firefighters pronounced the driver of the Honda deceased at the scene and confirmed extrication would be required for the occupant inside the Toyota.

Helicopter REACH-43 was requested to land near the scene and airlift the patient to a trauma center.

National Trails Highway is closed in both directions as CHP officers investigate the fatal crash. Anyone with information is asked to call Victorville CHP at 760-241-1186.

<https://www.vvng.com/national-trails-highway-in-oro-grande-closed-due-to-fatal-crash/>

## Saturday morning accident on SB-15 in Cajon Pass prompts freeway closure

Staff Writer, VictorValley News

Posted: August 1, 2020



Traffic on the SB I-15 at a complete stop due to the accident. (photo taken by Emzie Simpson)

CAJON PASS, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A Saturday morning accident on the southbound I-15 in the Cajon Pass prompted emergency personnel to stop traffic and land a helicopter on the freeway.

At about 7:48 AM on August 1, 2020, 911 dispatch received reports of a vehicle over the side with an occupant still trapped inside, near the escape ramp.

**San Bernardino County Firefighters** responded to the scene and confirmed the vehicle was approximately 100 feet over the side and extrication would be required.

A medical helicopter was requested to respond to the incident, prompting authorities to shut down the freeway. At approximately 8:20 AM., Mercy Air 22 departed from the scene and subsequently airlifted the injured person to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

The 2nd vehicle involved in the incident stopped, however, it's unknown if the driver reported any injuries. Motorists on the SB I-15 are reporting traffic is backed up for several miles.

This is a developing story and additional information will be updated as it becomes available.

<https://www.vvng.com/saturday-morning-accident-on-sb-15-in-cajon-pass-prompts-freeway-closure/>

## Brush fire stopped at 160 acres in La Loma Hills area of Colton

JONAH VALDEZ and ERIC LICAS, San Gabriel Valley Tribune / SUN / SCNG

Posted: August 1, 2020, 5:05 pm



A view of smoke from a brush fire burning in the La Loma Hills in Colton on August 8, 2020. Camera is positioned atop Box Springs Mountain in Riverside County. (Courtesy of Southern California Edison)

A brush fire that began Saturday, Aug. 2 burned about 160 acres in the La Loma Hills area of Colton, authorities said.

Authorities announced the fire at 4:20 p.m., and it produced smoke visible in the valley areas of Riverside and San Bernardino counties. However, no structures were damaged and no injuries were reported by the time it was fully extinguished at 9:40 p.m., Colton Fire Department Capt. Tom DeBellis said.

**Firefighters from** the Colton, San Manuel, Ontario, Rialto, Loma Linda, **San Bernardino County** and Cal Fire/Riverside fire departments battled the blaze. A team conducted a follow-up inspection of the burn scar Sunday and found no possible hot spots, DeBellis said. The cause of the fire was not immediately known.

About 25 miles east, the Apple fire continued to rage in Cherry Valley.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2020/08/01/brush-fire-burns-at-least-50-acres-in-la-loma-hills-area-of-colton/>

## Person airlifted after crash on Rancho Road in Oak Hills

Staff Writer, VictorValley News

Posted: July 31, 2020



OAK HILLS, Calif. (VVNG.com) — One person was airlifted following a crash in Oak Hills Friday afternoon.

It happened at the intersection of Rancho Road and Mariposa Road at 1:35 p.m. and involved a pickup truck and a sedan.

According to scanner traffic, a female occupant of the sedan was transported by ambulance to the football field at Oak Hills High School and further airlifted to Loma Linda University Medical Center.

Westbound Rancho Road was blocked at the I-15 due to the incident.

The cause of the crash is under investigation by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's office.

<https://www.vvng.com/person-airlifted-after-crash-on-rancho-road-in-oak-hills/>

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## Apple Fire day four: 5% contained; Pioneertown and Rimrock still advised to be ready

Staff Writer, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: August 03, 2020, 7:30 AM



San Bernardino County sent 10 engines and four chief officers to assist on the Apple Fire. Chief Scott Tuttle is leading a strike team of five engines and working on structure defense.

OAK GLEN - Evacuation warnings remain in place for Pioneertown and Rimrock as the Apple Fire continues to burn with about 5% of the perimeter contained Monday morning.

Fire managers said the fire grew about 6,000 acres from Sunday morning to Monday morning.

"The Apple fire burned actively overnight, primarily to the north and east," a statement from the incident command team reads. "Much of the fire activity is being driven by the record low moisture content of the

vegetation in the area combined with high temperatures and low relative humidity. These conditions are contributing to active fire behavior both day and night."

Compounding the problem is that flames are burning in an area with no recent fire history - meaning the brush is dense. It is expected to burn into less dense fuels as it progresses, according to the Forest Service.

Today's weather may be slightly better for firefighters, with a slightly higher humidity. However, crews are bracing for west winds 20-30 mph from midnight to 10 p.m.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department issued the evacuation warning for Pioneertown and Rimrock at 3:15 p.m. Sunday.

"There is a warning of a fire affecting your area. Your area may be subject to evacuations. At this time, this is only a warning," it reads. "If you need to evacuate, use Old Woman Springs Road or 29 Palms Highway to evacuate the area."

As smoke and ash poured in, the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District issued a smoke advisory for the entire Morongo Basin Sunday. Smoke particulates in the air can affect everyone, but the air may be particularly unhealthy for people with heart and respiratory illnesses, children, seniors and active adults, according to the MDAQMD.

The district advises everyone to stay inside, shut their doors and windows, limit activity and use air conditioners rather than swamp coolers if possible.

Firefighters on the ground and in the air are building a break line directly on the fire's edge where possible. Others are protecting buildings.

Local crew on standby

Brush Engine 461 with a crew of three Morongo Valley firefighters was moved up as a state resource to help fight the fire while Medic Engine 461 is staying staffed in Morongo Valley, the firefighters union said Sunday morning.

The crew is staged at the Cal Fire station in downtown Yucca Valley with an engine from Cal Fire Tulare, Capt. Brennain Gorter said.

Saturday, they were dispatched to the Baldwin Lake Fire and a vegetation fire in Morongo Valley around midnight.

Also on the Apple Fire is San Bernardino County Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle, a Morongo Basin resident.

"I have a strike team of five San Bernardino County Fire engines," Tuttle said Saturday morning. "We are doing structure defense in the Highland Springs Avenue and Cherry Valley Boulevard area of Beaumont."

Arson is suspected

The Apple Fire started as at least two wildfires reported shortly before 5 p.m. Friday. Various fire officials have told media outlets that arson is suspected. Fire investigators are on the scene.



People called 911 after seeing a man walking along Apple Tree Lane and starting fires around 5 p.m. Friday, NBC Los Angeles reported.

The flames spread quickly, racing over steep hillsides and consuming dry brush.

"Much of the northern and eastern edge of the fire is in very steep, rugged hillsides which is not accessible to firefighting vehicles," the incident report states.

Twenty hand crews, six helicopters, 178 engines and 19 water tenders are on the scene. A number of air tankers are available to the fire as well, the management team said.

Command of the fire was transferred from Cal Fire's Riverside County division to a Type 1 incident management team, led by partners from the U.S. Forest Service, Riverside County Fire, the Riverside County Sheriff's Department and the city of Yucaipa.

San Bernardino County residents are advised to follow the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department on Twitter for evacuation updates: <https://twitter.com/sbcountysheriff>.

<https://hidesertstar.com/news/170056/apple-fire-day-four-5-contained-pioneertown-and-rimrock-still-advised-to-be-ready/>

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## **MASSIVE "APPLE" FIRE ABOUT 14 MILES WEST, NOW UP TO OVER 26,000 ACRES**

**Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News**

Posted: August 3, 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

Smoke from a fire in Cherry Valley, near Banning, has blanketed the Morongo Basin at times since Friday evening. The massive Apple fire, 14 miles west of the Morongo Basin, has burned more than 26,500 acres in the San Bernardino National Forest, and as of Monday morning, was only 5 percent contained.

The fire is burning in rugged terrain and threatening hundreds of homes in the Banning area. One house and two outbuildings have been destroyed in the blaze. Thousands of residents have been ordered to evacuate.

For Morongo Valley, the Fire Department there is closely monitoring the fire's westward progress, which slowed down overnight.



**San Bernardino County Fire** Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle from Yucca Valley is leading a strike team of five fire engines at the Apple fire. He said his team is defending homes in the Highland Springs area of Beaumont. And on Sunday, Brush Engine 41 and its crew from Yucca Valley were sent to the Apple Fire.

More than 2200 firefighters are on the scene, including 32 hand crews, 275 fire engines, 48 water tenders, 24 dozers, nine helicopters, and several other aircraft.

<http://z1077fm.com/massive-apple-fire-about-14-miles-west-now-up-to-over-20000-acres/>

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## **20,000-Acre Apple Wildfire in Southern Calif. Remains 0% Contained**

Staff Writer, NBC Channel 10 BOSTON

Posted: August 2, 2020



One resident describes how she could hear the crackling of the flames before firefighters saved her home. Kim Tobin reports for NBC LA at 11 p.m. Sunday Aug. 2, 2020.

Nearly 8,000 people remain evacuated Monday due to a wildfire that grew to more than 26,400 acres with 5% containment after burning an area that stretched from Cherry Valley into the San Bernardino National Forest for three days.

At least one home has been destroyed by the Apple Fire, which spread rapidly during a weekend of extreme heat. Firefighters are facing another hot day Monday.

“We’re looking at a difficult day for our firefighters,” said NBC4 forecaster Belen De Leon. “We do have some gusts around that area up to about 14 mph. Winds are going to increase and humidity is going to drop.”

Most of the fire is in very steep, rugged terrain that's not easily accessed by firefighting vehicles. Helicopters and other aircraft continue to attack the flames.

A total of 2,266 firefighters and other personnel were assigned to the fire, including 29 hand crews and firefighters on 260 engines. The firefight in the air during daylight hours involved nine helicopters and two airplanes, said fire officials, who also said they expected the acreage figure to increase by the time the numbers are updated later this morning.

Earlier Sunday morning, fire officials said progress had been made and the blaze was 12% contained. However in a later update after U.S. Forest Service took over command, fire officials said the blaze was 0% contained.

Several evacuations were in place in both Riverside and San Bernardino counties, forcing nearly 8,000 people to evacuate.

An emergency closure order was put in place Sunday prohibiting all entry into the San Gorgonio Wilderness Area, including the Pacific Crest Hiking Trail between the Forest Boundary and Forest Road 1N01.

Residents north of Wilson Street, east of Sunset Avenue and west of Hathaway Street in Banning, were ordered to evacuate at 2:15 p.m. Saturday as flames crept toward the neighborhood, according to the Riverside County Emergency Management Department.

At 7 p.m., residents were put on notice they should be prepared to evacuate with little notice from the area north of Morongo Road east of Millard Canyon Road, west of Whitewater Canyon Road.

Also under evacuation orders since Friday were residents in the Banning Bench area and those north of Cherry Valley Boulevard between Beaumont and Highland Springs avenues, the Riverside County Fire Department said.

Fire officials estimated that 2,600 residences and 7,800 people have been evacuated and said they do not have a time frame for repopulating evacuated areas.

A hard road closure was in place along North Sunset at Wilson and North San Gorgonio Avenue at Summit Drive, according to the Banning Police Department.

Oak Glen Road between Cherry Valley Boulevard and Wildwood Canyon Road was also shut down.

A temporary evacuation center was established at Beaumont High School, 39139 Cherry Valley Blvd., with anyone going there subject to COVID-19 testing before being allowed in, fire department spokesman Fernando Herrera said.

The American Red Cross was assisting evacuees by putting them up in hotels.

Riverside County residents were encouraged to visit the website [www.rivcoready.org/ActiveEvents](http://www.rivcoready.org/ActiveEvents) for an interactive map, where they can enter their address and see if they are in an evacuation area. They can also follow <https://twitter.com/RivCoReady> for updates.

The fight was being waged by a unified command among the U.S. Forest Service, Riverside County Fire Department, Riverside County Sheriff's Department and the city of Yucaipa.

Fire activity was expected to remain high Sunday and the weather was expected to be similar to the past few days, with a high pressure ridge creating hot, dry conditions.

Fire officials said a single-family home and two outbuildings were destroyed near Avenida Miravilla, adding to the destruction of a few cars, a structure and a boat reported Friday night.

The smoke column from the fire was visible throughout much of Southern California. The South Coast Air Quality Management District issued a smoke advisory through Saturday evening for the Coachella Valley, San Gorgonio Pass and Hemet-San Jacinto Valley due to the fire. The agency urged residents in the area who smell smoke or see ash to limit their exposure by remaining indoors with windows and doors closed or to seek alternate shelter, and avoid vigorous physical activity.

As of 8 a.m. Sunday, 20 hand crews, six helicopters, 178 engines and 19 water tenders and 1,200 personnel were involved in the firefighting effort.

Along with county fire crews and Orange County and Anaheim Fire and Rescue firefighters, personnel from the Calimesa, Morongo, Murrieta, Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Huntington Beach, Hemet, Pechanga, **San Bernardino**, Soboba, Los Angeles and Los Angeles **County fire** departments were sent to assist under a mutual aid request.

At the request of the fire department, Southern California Edison turned off electricity along Oak Glen Road and surrounding side streets to prevent additional fires from breaking out as burned power poles collapsed and dropped transmission lines.

The practice is known as a “public safety power shutoff.”

Initially, two possible arson fires were reported at 5 p.m. Friday in the area of Apple Tree Lane and Oak Glen Road on the north end of the unincorporated community bordering Beaumont, and merged into one by 5:45 p.m., the RCFD said.

A third possible arson fire was also reported in the area and had blackened 60 to 80 acres by 7 p.m., according to reports from the scene.

Firefighters sent to the location encountered the three blazes coalescing in a drainage with heavy vegetation.

Witnesses called 911 as the fires started, stating a man was seen walking along Apple Tree Lane, igniting each blaze. Arson investigators were dispatched to the area and an investigation into the cause was underway.

<https://www.nbcboston.com/news/national-international/apple-fire-grows-to-15000-acres-12-contained/2170410/>

## FIRE IN CHERRY VALLEY SENDS SMOKE TO THE MORONGO BASIN

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: August 1, 2020



Flames from the Apple Fire near Cherry Valley race up a ridgeline Saturday. San Bernardino County Fire Department sent 10 engines and four chief officers to assist CALFire/Riverside County FD on the Apple Fire in Cherry Valley/Beaumont Area.

San Bernardino County Fire photos

Update 8:30 a.m. August 1: The fire is estimated at 1,900 acres and is 0 percent contained.

A fire that started about 5 p.m. Friday in Cherry Valley, near Banning, has exploded to about 1,900 acres as of 6:30 a.m. Saturday and is sending smoke into the Morongo Basin. Thousands of residents have been ordered to evacuate. As of 6:30 a.m. Saturday, no houses have caught fire. Eleven aircraft, including a 747 super tanker, and four Cal Fire helicopters, have been called in to drop fire retardant and water on the blaze. More than 375 **firefighters** are on the scene, including 10 fire engines and four chief officers from **San Bernardino County**, including Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle of Yucca Valley. As of 6:30 a.m. Saturday, the fire was 0 percent contained. The fire is burning in rugged terrain, and threatening hundreds of homes.

<http://z1077fm.com/fire-in-cherry-valley-sends-smoke-to-the-morongo-basin/>

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## Update: Apple Fire continues to burn

Rachael Gustuson, News Mirror

Posted: August 1, 2020



Friday night, the flames could be seen on Live Oak Canyon.

Photo by Jesse Dinkel

A fire broke out on July 31, at approximately 5 p.m. at Oak Glen Road and Apple Tree Lane, north of Cherry Valley. The flames were visible from Yucaipa and surrounding communities. Wind conditions allowed the flames to quickly spread as mandatory evacuations were given to local residents.

The unified command included fire fighters from across the state, CAL FIRE Riverside, County fire, U.S.F.S. **San Bernardino** and Yucaipa Fire.

The fire doubled overnight, as fire crews continued to fight the flames. As of 6:04 p.m., on Aug. 1, the fire grew to 4,125 acres and was still at 0% containment.

Over 2,500 homes have been evacuated in Cherry Valley, Banning and in Oak Glen. As of 5:30 p.m., there was a voluntary evacuation order for Forest Falls but it was later downgraded to an "evacuation warning."

The News Mirror will continue to update the story.

Update: Aug. 2, 8:30 a.m., the fire reached 12,000 acres but is now 12% contained. Only one home has been destroyed in the fire.

Update: Aug. 2, noon, 20,516 acres have burned. Fire activities remain high today. According to USFS, Much of the northern and eastern edge of the fire is in very steep, rugged hillsides which is not accessible to firefighting vehicles. Firefighters are using all resources available including helicopters, fixed wing air tankers, ground equipment and hand-crews.

## EVACUATIONS & CLOSURES

Several evacuation orders have been ordered.

For Riverside County Residents, please visit <https://www.rivcoready.org/ActiveEvents> for an interactive map that will allow you to enter your address to see if you are in an evacuation area. You can also follow <https://twitter.com/RivCoReady> to receive updated information as evacuations change.

For San Bernardino County Residents, please follow <https://twitter.com/sbcountysheriff> The community of Oak Glen is under an Evacuation Order. The orders for Forest Falls have been downgraded to an evacuation warning only.

The San Gorgonio Wilderness has been Closed to All Use. Effective Aug. 2, 2020 an Emergency Forest Closure Order is in effect which prohibits all entry into the San Gorgonio Wilderness Area. This order also includes the Pacific Crest Hiking Trail between the Forest Boundary and Forest Road 1N01.

All Forest Service recreation areas in the Forest Falls area are closed due to the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department's Voluntary Evacuation Order.

Update: Aug. 2, 6:52 p.m., 20,516 acres have burned. For those interested in a live feed, visit <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=221589039100785>

Update: Aug. 2, 7:30 p.m.

The fire is steady at 20,516 acres but with 5% containment.

[https://www.newsmirror.net/news/update-apple-fire-continues-to-burn/article\\_510bee66-d45b-11ea-9788-2bdbb90cdcde.html](https://www.newsmirror.net/news/update-apple-fire-continues-to-burn/article_510bee66-d45b-11ea-9788-2bdbb90cdcde.html)