



NEWS



News Headlines 02/16/2022

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Posted: Feb 16, 2022 3:05 AM



A heavy equipment team from the San Bernardino County Fire Department knocks down remnants of the former River Valley Air Conditioning building after the building was destroyed by a fire that began late Feb. 4.

NEEDLES -- The cost to battle and extinguish the fire at River Valley Air Conditioning on Feb. 4 will likely top six figures.

That's according to **San Bernardino County Fire** Chief Daniel Munsey, who along with Division 4 South Desert Assistant Chief Scott Tuttle, provided City Council members with an update about the blaze last week.

In addition to SBDFD, crews from Fort Mohave, Mohave Valley, Bullhead City, Devore, Havasu Lake and Twentynine Palms helped fight the fire.

"If I were to factor in their costs, it's easily over \$100,000," Munsey said. "If I look at just the County of San Bernardino's costs, our fire protection district, it's going to be between \$60,000 and \$70,000 for that one incident."

The fire at the vacant building on F Street was reported about 10:30 p.m. Feb. 4. Medic Engine 32 from Needles was the first to arrive on the scene and reported smoke and fire were showing from the attic and roofline.

"Just because the way the fire burned the building, it was unstable and we weren't able to go in and fight the fire," Tuttle said. "We had to stay outside because the building was collapsing. So to control the collapse, we called our excavator out to basically pull the building down for us and help us mop up and overall make sure there was no more hotspots."

There were no injuries reported and the fire did not impact any other property or business. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

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