



NEWS



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Meet Ginnie, San Bernardino County Fire's newest arson K-9

By Eric Vilchis, THE SAN BERNARDINO SUN

Posted: May 11, 2022



San Bernardino County Fire Protection District's newest member of the Arson Canine program Ginnie watches the action at Fire Station 72 in Fontana on Wednesday, May 11, 2022. (Photo by Terry Pierson, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG)

San Bernardino County Fire Protection District has a new member of its arson canine program.

Ginnie is a 2½-year-old yellow Labrador retriever, who with her handler, Assistant Fire Marshal Brian Headley, recently returned from training to join the program, according to a news release.

Ginnie joins Dinty, a 5-year-old black Labrador retriever, whose handler is Fire Investigator Shawn Reiss, to become the second canine in the program. Dinty has responded to more than 50 fires since May 2021, shortly after the program started.

Ginnie and Dinty are accelerant detection canines, trained to sniff out traces of accelerants like gasoline and lighter fluid. They can help identify crucial evidence at fire scenes, including a fire's cause, according to the release, and they also assist in cold crime cases and uncovering potential evidence in arsons and homicides.

"Arson canines are an invaluable resource in arson investigations," said Monica Ronchetti, acting fire marshal. "Their senses are extraordinary, capable of hitting on a drop of accelerant and can detect flammable liquids over 100 times more accurately than electronic gas detectors."

The two canines have Facebook and Instagram pages @SBCFireK9.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2022/05/11/meet-ginnie-san-bernardino-county-fires-newest-arson-k-9/>

Forty residents of apartment complex in Fontana are displaced by fire

By Staff Writer, FONTANA HERALD NEWS

Posted: May 11, 2022



San Bernardino County Fire Department

About 40 residents of a multi-unit apartment complex in central Fontana were displaced by a fire which erupted in the early morning hours of May 11, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department.

Firefighters arrived at 2:43 a.m. to find heavy fire and smoke showing from two units on the second floor of the apartments in the 9000 block of Newport Avenue.

Due to the size of the fire and apartment units adjacent, a second alarm was quickly struck, said Battalion Chief Mike McClintock.

Arriving crews attacked the blaze, working to keep it from spreading to the 10 additional units. Firefighters initiated an offensive attack, working both inside the second floor apartments and on the roof to suppress the fire.

Crews also completed searches of the apartments and evacuations of adjacent units to ensure all residents were outside. There were no reports of injuries. The fire was brought under control within 30 minutes of arrival.

Once the fire was knocked down, firefighters shifted their focus on salvage and overhaul operations.

SoCal Edison was requested due to the fire impacting the main breaker / meter area for the 12-unit building. Due to the extensive damage to the utility connection, the entire building was disconnected from the power grid until repairs could be made.

Forty residents were displaced due to fire, smoke, water or electrical disruption. **San Bernardino County Fire**, in partnership with California Fire Foundation, gave Supplying Aid to Victims of Emergency (SAVE) cards to those who were greatly impacted by the incident. The Red Cross was also requested to assist the displaced families.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/forty-residents-of-apartment-complex-in-fontana-are-displaced-by-fire/article_c131212c-d196-11ec-a112-2bcb0c04ca01.html

Fiery Crash On I-40 As A Big Rig Tractor-Trailer Strikes A Parked Big Rig Wednesday Morning

By Staff Writer, PAININTHEPASS

Posted: May 11, 2022



LUDLOW, CA. (Pain In The Pass) >>> No injuries were reported in a fiery crash Wednesday morning after a big rig tractor-trailer driver may have fallen asleep at the wheel and hit another big rig tractor-trailer that was parked on the right shoulder of the freeway.

the wreck happened at about 1:54am Wednesday May 11, 2022. On the westbound lanes of Interstate 40 after Crucero Road exit near 40 mile marker, according to the California Highway Patrol Traffic Log. CHP, Barstow Fire Department and the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department responded to the traffic collision. They located one big rig tractor-trailer on fire. Everybody escaped both tractor-trailers before the one fully involved in flames. From reports, one tractor-trailer hit the parked tractor-trailer. It had major damage to the right side and sheered off the front tire and a 150 gallon fuel tank then caught fire.

The interstate was closed for about 3 hours while emergency crews dealt with the tractor-trailer fire. The freeway was partially opened to traffic while the scene was processed by the clean-up crews and the removal of the two big rig tractor-trailers.

No injuries were reported from this incident. This incident will be under investigation by the California Highway Patrol Barstow Office. CHP says additional information will be updated as it becomes available. Please check back for updates on this incident.

<https://paininthepass.info/2022/05/11/fiery-crash-on-i-40-as-a-big-rig-tractor-trailer-strikes-a-parked-big-rig-wednesday-morning/>

The Twentynine Palms City Council tackled several issues last night

By Staff Writer, Z1077FM.COM

Posted: May 11, 2022



The Twentynine Palms City Council tackled several issues last night, though the hot topic of the evening was where to draw the line between the explosion of Vacation Home Rentals and the demand for housing. Reporter Heather Clisby was there.

It was a packed house at last night's Twentynine Palms City Council meeting as residents spoke up and city leaders wrestled with amendments to the Vacation Home Rental (VHR) Development Code. The council ultimately approved an exact limit on the number of VHRs permits that can be issued city-wide: 500. With 5,797 single-family homes in the city, this comes out to an 8.6 percent cap. (Yucca Valley recently capped at 10 percent.) As of March 29, the number stands at 6.3 percent – 240 issued licenses, with 129 pending.

Other notable amendments include a limit on the number of VHRs that can be owned by one owner/entity (5), the VHR must be rented for at least one night annually for the license to remain active, and owners must attend a class on how to be a responsible VHR host. Increased fines for noise/safety code violations will be \$500, \$1,000 and \$2,000 for first, second, and third infractions, and the fines go up to \$5,000 for operating without a license.

The meeting also featured the introduction of two new employees to the Parks and Recreation Department, a presentation from **San Bernardino County Fire** Protection District, approved partial service retirement for retirees who still work part-time, and approval of rental plans/fees for the community center and stage at Freedom Plaza.

The next meeting of the Twentynine Palms City Council is scheduled for May 24.

<https://z1077fm.com/twentynine-palms-city-council-caps-vhrs-at-a-flat-500/>

'Flashes of Fire': At Least 20 Homes Burn in Laguna Niguel Coastal Fire

By Jonathan Lloyd, NBCLOSANGLES.COM

Posted: May 11, 2022



A brush fire that started in Orange County's Aliso Woods Canyon tore through thick brush on a hillside and burned into a neighborhood at the top of the canyon in Laguna Niguel

Residents remained under evacuation orders early Thursday after a brush fire fanned by ocean winds charged up a hillside and quickly burned at least 20 homes in a Laguna Niguel neighborhood.

The Coastal Fire burned nearly 200 acres after it started early Wednesday afternoon in Aliso Woods Canyon. There is no containment, but wind speeds are expected to decrease Thursday after 20- to 30-mph gusts pushed flames into the hilltop neighborhood.

At the base of Coronado Pointe, one of the evacuated areas, panicked families gathered as firefighters tried to slow flames and smoke darkened the sky.

"I saw flashes of fires just coming in my house and that's the time I left with my wife," said Abi Farsoni, who left his computer, and everything he owns. "It's horrible for residents. You don't know if your home is still there. We don't know. I have a lot of things. I didn't have time to take them."

He later found out his home was still standing. Flames reached several multimillion-dollar estates on a hillside overlooking the ocean. It was only a matter of minutes before many were destroyed by the relentless fire.

"This entire street is chaotic, right now," said resident Carson Williams.

Water-dropping aircraft were part of the fight to keep flames from spreading. Details about how the fire started were not immediately available. Southern California Edison reported possible "circuit activity" at about the time the fire started Wednesday afternoon. NBCLA has reached out to the utility for details.

Evacuations were ordered in the Coronado Pointe and Pacific Island Drive areas, while voluntary evacuation orders were issued in the Balboa Nyes and Moulton Meadows neighborhoods in Laguna Beach. Students taking part in after-school activities at Laguna Beach High School were also evacuated, according to the school district.

The area is between Aliso Viejo and Laguna Niguel. Smoke could be seen for miles along the Orange and Los Angeles county coasts. Deputies were asking residents on San Simeon, Sierra Vista, Alta Terra, Nucella, Serana, Avante, Tanarron, Teracina, Islands Avenue, Capri Court, Sunrisa Lane, Chapala Court, Arelu Court and Anamonte to evacuate.

An evacuation center was established at the Laguna Niguel Community Center at 28751 Crown Valley Parkway, Steinle said.

Check here for an interactive map of evacuations, road closures and shelters for the Coastal Fire in Orange County. A smoke advisory was issued Thursday for parts of the area.

The U.S. West is facing mega-drought that has left hillsides covered in dry brush that provides fuel for wildfires. California is coming off one of its driest winters on record, adding to concerns about how quickly brush fires can spread, especially in windy conditions.

<https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/california-wildfires/homes-burn-laguna-niguel-coastal-fire-wildfires/2891669/>