



# NEWS



## News Headlines 06/02/2022

- Victorville Fire Chief resigns, citing 'leadership styles' in letter
- Pedestrian is struck by motorcycle in Fontana
- Smoke And Foul Stench From A Composting Fire In Hinkley Blanketing The Town Of Barstow For Days

## Victorville Fire Chief resigns, citing 'leadership styles' in letter

By Andrew Caravella, HDDAILYNEWS.COM

Posted: June 1, 2022



Jeff Armstrong posing for a picture as a member of his former fire department in Rio Vista, CA.

Nearly 15 months into the job, Chief Jeff Armstrong for the Victorville Fire Department has presented his resignation letter to Victorville City Manager Keith Metzler.

The decision by Armstrong was made after citing the "results from an evaluation of organizational; 'fit' and leadership styles."

In the resignation letter, obtained by HDdailynews.com, Armstrong says that his goal was to leave Victorville Fire Department better than he found it, "I can honestly say that I have done that here in Victorville."

Armstrong is the second fire chief to call it quits for the city-run fire department. The former chief, Greg Benson, left abruptly with no official explanation. Victorville transitioned away from a contract with **San Bernardino County Fire** in 2019, after a 10-year relationship with SBC Fire.

Before the contract with the county, Victorville's first city-run fire department also had Greg Benson as chief, a position he left in August 2020 from the newly, reestablished Victorville Fire Department.

7 months later, in February 2021, Chief Jeff Armstrong was recruited to take the helm of the fire department. Victorville hired him out of northern California where Armstrong served as the fire chief for the Rio Vista Fire Department. Armstrong had over 24 years of experience in fire and emergency services that he brought to Victorville. At the time, Victorville City Manager Keith Metzler agreed that Armstrong was a "proven fire services professional with the breadth of skills, leadership, and experience needed to take our City's fire department to the next level."

Under Armstrong's leadership, Victorville Fire was able to raise its classification from an ISO Class 3 fire department to a Class 2 fire department. This classification is crucial to a department because it's the score provided to departments and insurance companies to reflect how prepared a community and areas are for fires. According to a city statement, only 6% of fire departments in the nation are considered Class 2.

Armstrong was also able to have a part in helping bridge negotiations between VFD's labor-management relations. Just recently the union representing firefighters in Victorville (IAFF 3710) and the city agreed on a brand new 5-year agreement that helped increase the benefits of its firefighters. Armstrong said, "I've always had positive, working relationships with unions."

Speaking to HDdailynews.com, Armstrong was asked specifically about his most challenging aspect of working in Victorville. He said the most challenging task hands down was "Reestablishing a city-run fire department after not having one for about 10 years. I arrived in the forming phase and we received 24,000 calls a year, making face-to-face interactions with the community crucial." Armstrong further elaborated that the fire department worked hard to create a presence for the branding of the Victorville Fire Department.

The City of Victorville put out a press release on June 1, 2022, regarding the change in leadership. No mention of Chief Armstrong's accomplishments during his brief time working for the city. Instead, Victorville chose to focus on Brian Fallon, who has been a member of the Victorville Fire Department since September 2021. Fallon will now assume the role of fire chief for the Victorville Fire Department.

“Chief Fallon is joining Victorville Fire at an exciting time as we have successfully completed labor negotiations and improved our fire rating,” said Victorville City Manager Keith Metzler. “Now, we can focus on developing a management support structure that will further elevate our responsiveness to our Victorville community.”

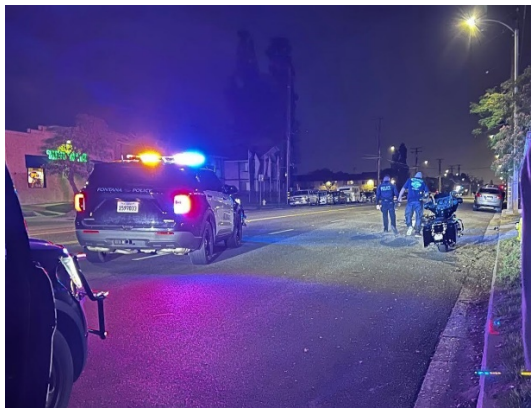
Armstrong has accepted the fire chief position back in northern California at Rio Vista Fire, which is the department he left to come to Victorville.

[https://www.hddailynews.com/news/local/victorville-fire-chief-resigns-citing-leadership-styles-in-letter/article\\_a98e22e6-e108-11ec-a46c-67c19206a52d.html](https://www.hddailynews.com/news/local/victorville-fire-chief-resigns-citing-leadership-styles-in-letter/article_a98e22e6-e108-11ec-a46c-67c19206a52d.html)

## Pedestrian is struck by motorcycle in Fontana

By Staff Writer, FONTANAHERALDNEWS.COM

Posted: June 1, 2022



Police investigate an incident in which a motorcycle struck a pedestrian in Fontana on May 30. (Contributed photo by SoCal News Outlet)

A pedestrian was struck by a motorcycle in Fontana on May 30, according to the Fontana Police Department. The incident took place at about 9 p.m. at the intersection of Arrow and Oleander avenues. Witnesses told police dispatch that the motorcycle ran the red light at the intersection and struck a pedestrian crossing the street in the crosswalk.

Both subjects were treated on the scene by **San Bernardino County Fire** / medics for non-life-threatening injuries. Both subjects were transported to local hospitals as a precaution.

[https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/pedestrian-is-struck-by-motorcycle-in-fontana/article\\_683f1e2a-e1db-11ec-8abd-a316eb2ab329.html](https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/pedestrian-is-struck-by-motorcycle-in-fontana/article_683f1e2a-e1db-11ec-8abd-a316eb2ab329.html)

# Smoke And Foul Stench From A Composting Fire In Hinkley Blanketing The Town Of Barstow For Days

By Staff Writer, PAININTHEPASS.COM

Posted: June 2, 2022



The Nursery Products Hawes Composting Facility, is permitted to handle 400,000 wet tons of waste sewage and grass clippings per year just west of the town of Hinkley. The fire reportedly started on Saturday May 28, 2022 and has been burning out of control every since.

Smoke and the smell has been blowing around into the Barstow communities for days now and no end in sight. **San Bernardino County Fire** Battalion Chief Mike McClintock said that the fire could last a week. The compost-facility operators are now leading the handling of the blaze while the fire department monitors the fire-fighting efforts, McClintock said.

“To continually flow high amounts of water is very difficult, and then couple that with the crazy high winds over the 3-day weekend, the suppression efforts were futile,” he said.

At 8pm June 2, 2022 at Riley’s Place on 20737 Old Bakersfield Hwy. Hinkley, CA. 92347 you’re invited to make a statement with a news reporter about the fire contamination and the air quality in the surrounding communities.

<https://paininthepass.info/2022/06/02/smoke-and-foul-stench-from-a-composting-fire-in-hinkley-blanketing-the-town-of-barstow-for-days/>