



NEWS



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Elderly Couple, 8 Pets Killed in House Fire

By Staff Writer, EVERYTHING SAN BERNARDINO

Posted: July 31, 2022



An elderly couple married for 50 years died as a result of a house fire, along with the eight dogs & cats they rescued and cared for. The fire happened Saturday night in the Del Rosa neighborhood of San Bernardino.

Everything San Bernardino talked to James Carty Jr. and his son Brandon in front of the home Sunday afternoon. James Jr. told us his mother, Carol (81) and father, James (82) both died as a result of the fire.

When **San Bernardino County firefighters** responded to the home in the 1100 block of Holly Vista Boulevard just after 11 p.m., they found the home charged with smoke. <https://fb.watch/eCP9StF37y/>

Firefighters and paramedics rushed inside and pulled the couple out to the front yard where they continued their valiant effort to save the Cartys' lives. Both were rushed to hospitals.

Ernest Malone Jr. lives across the street from the Cartys. He responded to the house to assist. He described the Cartys as good neighbors who were friendly and always willing to help. Sheila Morgan, another neighbor, called 911 to report the fire. She grabbed a crowbar, prepared to help if necessary, as firefighters arrived. She called the tragedy horrific.

James Jr. said his parents were married for 50 years and had lived in their Holly Vista Boulevard home for 53 years. It's the home James Jr. in. He told us that his parents loved animals, so much so that they brought in and cared for four dogs and four cats. The eight pets also died in the fire.

The cause of the fire is still unknown. Fire department investigators were on the scene late Saturday and into early Sunday morning. As we were on the scene Sunday afternoon, other neighbors stopped by to offer their condolences, calling the Cartys good neighbors who will be missed.

How you can help:

A GoFundMe account has been setup by the family to assist with memorial and related expenses: <https://gofund.me/c1e12c46> .

<https://www.facebook.com/everythingsanbernardino/videos/1745584549137297>

Mudslide near Angelus Oaks closes Highway 38 in the San Bernardino Mountains

By Eric Licas and Quinn Wilson, SBSUN.COM

Posted: July 31, 2022



A stretch of Highway 38 was closed due to flood-caused mud on the road near Angelus Oaks on Sunday, July 31, 2022. (Photo courtesy San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department/Yucaipa Station)

A mudslide triggered by heavy rain this weekend along Highway 38 in the San Bernardino Mountains resulted in closures on the highway along the 2020 El Dorado fire burn scar on Sunday afternoon, July 31.

The closure took place in both directions between Jenks Lake Road to Valley of the Falls Drive outside Yucaipa after debris swept over the highway around 12 p.m., Caltrans said. It was not immediately clear how long the closure would be in place.

Witness reports to the California Highway Patrol said that around 30 cars were stuck in the mud flow in the Hills Ranch Road area near Angelus Oaks. The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department responded to "numerous" swift-water rescues of stranded motorists, however, it wasn't immediately clear how many rescues occurred, said Eric Sherwin, spokesman for the Fire Department.

Caltrans workers had made way for first responders to assist with flooding, said Emily Leinen, spokeswoman for Caltrans. No injuries were reported, Leinen and Sherwin said.

Drivers were advised to wait until the storm passes or take plan alternate routes.

On Sunday, radar estimated rainfall levels near Angelus Oaks between .75 inches and 1.5 inches, said Brian Adams, meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

On Saturday, the National Weather Service reported scattered thunderstorms, prompting flood watches in the San Bernardino Mountains. Those were scheduled to remain in effect until 10 p.m. Sunday.

A road closure at Potato Canyon at Oak Glen Road in Oak Glen from flooding on Saturday, July 30, remained in effect on Sunday, according to Cal Fire San Bernardino.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2022/07/31/30-motorists-reportedly-caught-in-mudslide-near-big-bear/>

Highway Fire now 95% contained, held at 28 acres after initial surge near Silverwood Lake

By Charlie McGee, VVDAILYPRESS.COM

Posted: July 31, 2022



The Highway Fire off Highway 173 in the Hesperia area on Friday, July 29, 2022.

A unified command of state, county and National Forest firefighters made significant gains on a fire north of Silverwood Lake, holding it at a reduced size from its initial acreage with its spread almost entirely contained as of Sunday morning.

The officially-dubbed Highway Fire began shortly after 5 p.m. Friday and had grown to between 40 and 50 acres by that evening in the area of State Routes 138 and 173 near Hesperia, according to Cal Fire. The latter highway had been closed between Los Flores Road and Highway 138 as a result, and Cal Fire said two homes and one outbuilding had been destroyed by the blaze Friday evening.

The tides turned Saturday. Firefighters reduced the estimated size of the blaze to 28 acres, reopened Highway 173 and said a bit more than half of the fire's spread had been contained by that afternoon.

Cal Fire updated its estimated control of the blaze to 95% containment shortly before 7:30 p.m. Saturday evening, when it said the size remained at 28 acres. It reiterated both of those estimates in an update Sunday morning.

The firefight has transitioned to "patrol status," CalFire said in a Twitter post Saturday evening, adding that its unified command with **San Bernardino County Fire** and San Bernardino National Forest had been terminated.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation, authorities say.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/story/news/2022/07/31/highway-fire-now-95-contained-held-28-acres-near-silverwood-lake/10196387002/>

Three people are displaced by fire which damaged two homes in Upland

By Staff Writer, FONTANAHERALDNEWS.COM

Posted: July 31, 2022



A fire damaged two homes in Upland on July 31.

Three people were displaced by a fire which damaged two homes in Upland on July 31, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

At 3:52 a.m., crews were dispatched to a reported house on fire in the 200 block of South 2nd Avenue.

Firefighters quickly arrived on scene to find heavy smoke and fire showing from a single-story home with multiple structures immediately threatened. Arriving crews initiated a fire attack, working to suppress the fire and keeping it from spreading to adjacent occupancies. They found the blaze had spread to the next-door garage and a patio to the rear of the original fire occupancy, said Battalion Chief Mike McClintock.

Firefighters worked to limit the fire spread in both homes and patio, knocking the fire back in 30 minutes. Firefighters were successful in limiting fire growth in both exposures, saving the living space and main structure to the rear.

Searches of the home came up negative. Two cats were found inside the home and reunited with family. There were no injuries to either firefighters or residents.

The fire's cause remains under investigation.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland_empire_news/three-people-are-displaced-by-fire-which-damaged-two-homes-in-upland/article_ae45cb78-1109-11ed-a145-0b50cb8a8b85.html

House approves legislation to help the West cope with wildfires and drought

By Matthew Daly, PBS.ORG

Posted: July 30, 2022



WASHINGTON (AP) — The House on Friday approved wide-ranging legislation aimed at helping communities in the West cope with increasingly severe wildfires and drought — fueled by climate change — that have caused billions of dollars of damage to homes and businesses in recent years.

The measure combines 49 separate bills and would increase firefighter pay and benefits; boost resiliency and mitigation projects for communities affected by climate change; protect watersheds; and make it easier for wildfire victims to get federal assistance.

“Across America the impacts of climate change continue to worsen, and in this new normal, historic droughts and record-setting wildfires have become all too common,” said Rep. Joe Neguse, D-Colo., the bill’s chief co-sponsor. Colorado has suffered increasingly devastating wildfires in recent years, including the Marshall fire last year that caused more than \$513 million in damage and destroyed nearly 1,100 homes and structures in Boulder County.

“What once were wildfire seasons are now wildfire years. For families across the country who have lost their homes due to these devastating wildfires and for the neighborhoods impacted by drought, we know that we need to apply a whole-of-government approach to support community recovery and bolster environmental resiliency,” Neguse said. “This is a bill that we believe meets the moment for the West.”

The bill was approved, 218-199, as firefighters in California battled a blaze that forced evacuation of thousands of people near Yosemite National Park and crews in North Texas sought to contain another fire.

One Republican, Pennsylvania Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, voted in favor of the bill, while Oregon Rep. Kurt Schrader was the only Democrat to oppose it.

The bill now goes to the Senate, where Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., has sponsored a similar measure.

Both the House and Senate bills would permanently boost pay and benefits for federal wildland firefighters. President Joe Biden signed a measure last month giving them a hefty raise for the next two years, a move that affects more than 16,000 firefighters and comes as much of the West braces for another difficult wildfire season.

Pay raises for the federal firefighters had been included in last year’s \$1 trillion infrastructure bill, but the money was held up as federal agencies studied recruitment and retention data to decide where to deliver them. The raise approved by Biden was retroactive to Oct. 1, 2021, and expires Sept. 30, 2023.

The House bill would make the pay raises permanent and sets minimum pay for federal wildland firefighters at \$20 per hour, or nearly \$42,000 a year. It also raises eligibility for hazardous-duty pay and boosts mental health and other services for firefighters. The bill is named after smokejumper Tim Hart, who died fighting a wildfire in New Mexico last year.

“The West is hot — hotter than ever — it is dry and when it is windy, the West is on fire,” said Rep. Kim Schrier, D-Wash. “And we are seeing this every year because of climate change. That’s why this bill is so important.”

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., called the bill “a major victory for Californians — and for the country.” The Oak Fire, the largest wildfire so far this year, “is ravaging our state,” she said. “At the same time, countless of our communities regularly suffer lack of rainfall that can kill crops and further fuel fires.”

The House bill would deliver “urgently needed resources” to combat fires and droughts, “which will only increase in frequency and intensity due to the climate crisis,” Pelosi said. The bill includes \$500 million to preserve water levels in key reservoirs in the drought-stricken Colorado River and invest in water recycling and desalination.

Republicans denounced the measure as “political messaging,” noting that firefighters’ hourly pay has already been increased above \$20 in most cases. The House bill does not appropriate additional money for the Forest Service or other agencies, and without such an increase, the Forest Service says it would have to lay off about 470 wildland firefighters.

Rep. Bruce Westerman of Arkansas, the top Republican on the House Natural Resources Committee, called it “egregious” that Democrats would seek to enact provisions that could lead to firefighter layoffs in the midst of a devastating wildfire season.

“Democrats are finally waking up to the wildfire and drought crises, exacerbated by years of forest mismanagement and a lack of long-term water storage. Unfortunately, Democrats’ proposals are anything but solutions,” Westerman said. He accused Democrats of failing to follow science showing the need to manage forests before fires begin, and said Democrats “fail to construct the kind of long-term infrastructure needed to make communities resilient to drought” while prioritizing “liberal talking points” about climate change.

Neguse called that accusation outrageous and noted that many of the bills included in the wildfire/drought legislation are Republican proposals.

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., said the bill was important to the whole country — not just the West, where wildfires and drought are a daily reality.

“We are one nation indivisible and if one part of us is burning, we are all burning,” Hoyer said.

Besides boosting firefighter pay, the bill enhances forest management projects intended to reduce hazardous fuels such as small trees and underbrush that can make wildfires far more dangerous. It also establishes grant programs to help communities affected by air pollution from wildfires and improve watersheds damaged by wildfire.

Republicans called the thinning projects — which also include prescribed burns and removal of vegetation — meaningless without waivers of lengthy environmental reviews that can delay forest treatment by years.

The White House said in a statement that it supports efforts to address climate change, wildfires and drought, but wants to “work with the Congress to ensure the many provisions in the (bill) avoid duplication with existing authorities and administration efforts.”

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/house-approves-legislation-to-help-the-west-cope-with-wildfires-and-drought>

More than 700 students receive school supplies during event in Fontana

By Staff Writer, FONTANAHERALDNEWS.COM

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More than 700 students received school supplies for the upcoming year during the annual Back to School Bash in Fontana on July 23. (Contributed photo by **San Bernardino County Fire Department**)

The event took place at Jack Bulik Park and was coordinated by Water of Life Community Church and CityLink. In addition to getting the items for school, many students were able to receive free haircuts and participate in games. Families also had a chance to meet firefighters from San Bernardino County Station 72 in Fontana and tour the fire engines.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/more-than-700-students-receive-school-supplies-during-event-in-fontana/article_3635277e-108b-11ed-be95-7b7cda6c5c53.html

Homeless warned to stay out of mountains and canyons as high fire threat looms; ‘Your life’s more important than your camp is,’ a San Bernardino sheriff’s deputy told a City Creek camper

By Joe Nelson, SBSUN.COM

Posted: July 30, 2022



Brandon Grimmatt with the **San Bernardino County Fire** Marshal office places a warning sign prohibiting camping in the City Creek area off of highway 330 in San Bernardino on Thursday, July 28, 2022. The San Bernardino County Sheriff’s HOPE team and Fire Marshal visited homeless encampments in the canyons and mountain areas posting notices of fire danger and making contact with homeless persons, encouraging them to decamp to safer areas as fire season looms while also offering services to better their situation. It has been part of an ongoing effort that began last year when the county Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution prohibiting homeless encampments in high fire danger areas, especially in the mountains and canyons.

Through thickets of flora at City Creek in Highland, San Bernardino County sheriff’s Deputies Mike Jones and Branden Davault led county fire marshal’s inspectors along a narrow, rocky trail to several homeless encampments concealed in the brush.

Holding boxes of 18-inch wooden stakes and stacks of red paper signs, they stapled the signs to the stakes and then hammered them into the ground within and around the encampments. “Unauthorized entry prohibited. Persons entering this area without authorization shall be punished as prescribed by law,” the signs read.

“Your life’s more important than your camp is,” Jones tells camper Robert Simmons, 56, referring to the high fire danger in the creek and in the foothills and canyons abutting the San Bernardino Mountains.

Simmons peers out from inside his green-and-gray dome tent, and he and Jones converse awhile. Jones informs him of the housing and health care resources available through the county and local nonprofits, and encourages Simmons to relocate due to the dangerous environs.

The team of deputies and fire inspectors continues posting signs and moves on.

Efforts paying off

For the second year, the sheriff’s H.O.P.E. team has swept homeless encampments in the canyons and foothills at the base of the San Bernardino Mountains in an attempt to move them out, at least during fire season. Targeted areas include Waterman Canyon in San Bernardino, the City Creek area north of Highland Avenue and east of Highway 330, and the Mill Creek wash, east of Bryant Avenue and north of Highway 38, at the Yucaipa-Mentone border.

This year, the H.O.P.E. team ramped up its efforts by partnering with the Fire Marshal’s Office and posting signs. A resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors last year gives them more leverage in persuading transients to stay out of harm’s way.

The resolution, introduced by Supervisor Janice Rutherford and modeled after one approved by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in August 2021, authorizes the county's land use services and code enforcement departments to help clear homeless encampments in "very high fire hazard severity zones," mainly in the mountains, canyons and foothills.

And the efforts have paid off.

"From our initial contacts this year, there is over a 50% decrease in camps in these severity zones," Jones said. That decrease reflects a minor drop in homeless people living on the street in 2022, and an increase in those taking refuge in shelters and temporary housing, according to the county's 2022 [point-in-time homeless count](#).

While the H.O.P.E team works independently of the county's code enforcement and land use services departments, the resolution allows the outreach workers to contact those departments should they need help. Thus far, the H.O.P.E. team has not called on either department for assistance, county spokesman David Wert said in an email.

Jones said 40 to 60 homeless people typically occupy the encampments in Waterman Canyon, City Creek and the Mill Creek wash at any given time. He said City Creek is the biggest of the three, with 20 to 40 homeless people nesting there year-round. The deputies and fire inspectors posted about 20 signs in the City Creek and Waterman Canyon areas on Thursday, July 28, and made contact with about a dozen homeless individuals, Jones said. They plan to continue sweeping the same areas this week and throughout the duration of fire season, he said.

Cause for concern

The homeless presence in mountain communities has been a source of concern for some residents, prompting complaints to Rutherford and leading to her board resolution.

Homeless camping in turnouts along Highway 18, near the Arrowhead Springs Hotel and up the mountain toward the Crestline turnout, also has been a concern. Caltrans assesses encampments in highway turnouts for immediate threats to public safety and, when feasible, collaborates with state, city and county agencies to provide essential services and available shelter to people experiencing homelessness, agency spokeswoman Emily Lienen said.

The recently enacted 2022-23 state budget includes \$700 million in grants to resolve homeless encampments, of which \$350 million will be available to assist people living on the state right-of-way, Lienen said.

In at least one case, conditions were so bad at an encampment in a turnout on Highway 18, north of Old Waterman Canyon Road, that Caltrans was forced to seal off the area with a K-rail, Davault said.

Caltrans posts notices giving homeless campers in highway turnouts 72 hours to vacate. The notices inform them that any personal belongings they leave behind can be retrieved at a nearby Caltrans maintenance yard, Lienen said.

Forest dwellers

The U.S. Forest Service says some homeless individuals have trudged even further into the forest. At one encampment near the Strawberry Peak fire lookout tower north of Highway 18 near Lake Arrowhead, a fire believed started by homeless campers burned a 50-by-50-foot area last August.

Anyone cited for an illegal campfire on U.S. Forest Service land faces an appearance in federal court. Maximum punishment is a \$5,000 fine for an individual, or \$10,000 per group, and six months in jail.

On May 26, the Forest Service imposed restrictions, including camping stay limits, on forest recreation areas due to fire danger. The restrictions are in place for a year, agency spokeswoman Yassy Wilkins said.

"The forest's conditions are constantly reviewed to ensure proper levels are implemented," Wilkins said.

Wilkins could not say, however, what the Forest Service has been doing recently to deter the homeless presence in the San Bernardino National Forest. That's because most of the agency's resources have been allocated to the Oak Fire in Mariposa County, which has burned more than 19,000 acres since it [erupted about midnight on July 22 near Yosemite National Park](#).

<https://www.sbsun.com/2022/07/30/homeless-warned-to-stay-out-of-mountains-and-canyons-as-high-fire-threat-looms/>

Another Hiker Seriously Injured After Plunging Down Waterfalls In IE

By Toni McAllister, PATCH.COM

Posted: July 29, 2022



Big Falls in the San Bernardino National Forest. (Getty Images/iStockphoto)

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CA — Another visitor plummeted from waterfalls in the San Bernardino National Forest this week.

The woman fell Thursday afternoon from above the middle waterfall at Big Falls in Forest Falls, according to Cal Fire/**San Bernardino County Fire** Department.

A helicopter crew had to hoist the seriously injured woman from the area and send her to a local trauma center, according to the fire agency.

An update on the woman's condition was not immediately available.

Her fall was not the first this week. At 4:45 p.m. Sunday, Richard Deharo, 43, of Riverside was pronounced dead at Big Falls after he tumbled down the falls with a hiking companion.

Deharo fell about 20 feet alongside a 43-year-old Riverside woman, according to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

A sheriff's helicopter crew spotted the pair in the lower falls area as the woman was performing CPR on Deharo, the sheriff's department reported.

Cal Fire/San Bernardino County Fire Department crews made their way to the area but Deharo was dead when they arrived.

The woman was hoisted up to the helicopter and flown to an awaiting ground ambulance. She was sent to Loma Linda University Medical Center for treatment of her injuries, according to the sheriff's department. An update on her medical condition was unavailable. Deharo's body was retrieved and sent to the San Bernardino County coroner's office.

The fatality is at least the second this year in the Forest Falls area. The body of Robert Carey Jr., 33, of Calimesa was discovered at the base of the Big Falls waterfall in May. Read more: [Body Of Missing Calimesa Hiker Found At Base Of Waterfall](#)

Big Falls — one of Southern California's tallest waterfalls — is a popular hiking destination in the San Bernardino National Forest. However, hikers are advised not to hike or climb past the overlook due to dangerous terrain that is loose, slippery and steep.

<https://patch.com/california/banning-beaumont/another-hiker-seriously-injured-after-plunging-down-waterfall-ie>