



NEWS



News Headlines 08/25-28/2023

- Woman Pick-Up Fire Jammed Sunday Traffic on NB I-15 in the Cajon Pass
- City Takes Action: San Bernardino Dormitory Infested with Mold and Neglect Finally Closed
- Firefighters Douse Flames Consuming Abandoned Commercial Building

Pick-Up Fire Jammed Sunday Traffic on NB I-15 in the Cajon Pass

By Staff Writer, Pain in the Pass

August 27, 2023



CAJON PASS, CA. (Pain In The Pass) >> A pick-up truck caught fire on northbound Interstate 15 Sunday evening, that you could see black smoke for miles. (Photo above is credit by Candida Martinez)

California Highway Patrol, San Bernardino National Forest Firefighters, and San Bernardino County Fire Department were getting calls of a white Dodge Ram pick-up truck on fire about two miles after the Kenwood Avenue on northbound I-15 about 6pm on August 27, 2023.

California Highway Patrol and firefighters were on the scene and had to temporarily shut down the slow lane while they worked on getting the vehicle fire put out.

The everybody did escape the vehicle before it became fully engulfed. No injuries were reported at the scene. It was reported flames were under the engine compartment, before the whole truck caught fire. The cause of the vehicle fire is unknown at this time. Flames did reach nearby brush but was quickly extinguished.

<https://original.newsbreak.com/@pain-in-the-pass-1754716/3137482845430-pick-up-fire-jammed-sunday-traffic-on-nb-i-15-in-the-cajon-pass>

City Takes Action: San Bernardino Dormitory Infested with Mold and Neglect Finally Closed

By Breanna Reeves, Pain in the Pass

August 25, 2023 at 6pm



A woman brings items to car after exiting 340 W. 4th Street on August 15, 2023. In October 2022, San Bernardino Code Enforcement officials and San Bernardino County Fire Department deemed the building as unsafe after finding situations that were an immediate threat to public health and safety, including black mold. Though the building was “red-tagged” it was not officially shut down at that time as there were over 200 people who had nowhere else to go. Credit: Aryana Noroozi for Black Voice News / CatchLight Local

Located less than one mile away from the unblemished entrance to San Bernardino City Hall sits a former American Sports University dormitory that once housed students, but began to house San Bernardino residents looking for affordable housing.

After three years of tenants occupying rooms in the unsafe, black mold-infested building located at 340 W. 4th Street, the city finally closed the building on Aug. 17 and all tenants left voluntarily, according to San Bernardino Public Information Officer Jeff Kraus.

In October 2022, San Bernardino Code Enforcement officials in partnership with San Bernardino County Fire Department marked the building as unsafe after finding situations that were an immediate threat to public health and safety. The building had been red-tagged then, but not shut down.

“Where we were sort of stuck between a rock and a hard place, is the building probably should have been shut down then, but with between probably 210 [to] 220 people in there, we really couldn’t just turn them out on the street,” Kraus explained.

City officials were able to provide services and relocate tenants, but as more people learned that services were being provided, more and more people began to show up, many of whom were not tenants of the building.

San Bernardino County’s 2023 Homeless Count Survey reported 2,976 unsheltered adults and children, up from 2,389 in 2022. With 1,017 unsheltered adults and children counted, the city of San Bernardino had the highest number of unsheltered people.

“Some of the occupants who moved out are still in need of long-term housing and additional services,” said Interim City Manager Charles McNeely. “The mayor and council are committed to continue working to provide affordable housing options for our residents and homeless solutions as a safety net.”

According to Kraus, current conditions of the building include a large, growing pile of trash that sits inside and alongside the building, no smoke detectors, unusable fire escape, insect infestation, broken and leaking plumbing, and “excessive” black mold.

The building is owned by Ji Li of Fox Property Holdings LLC of Irwindale, CA. In September 2022, the court issued a temporary restraining order that required the property owner to pay to relocate the tenants and make all required repairs to the building. Kraus said that the property owner has ignored those court orders.

Earlier this year, in an effort to take control over the building, the city requested that the court appoint a new, temporary overseer of the building and make much-needed repairs. The court denied the request and granted the property owner’s request for additional time to make building repairs.

“Here we are five months later, and still nothing has been done, and the conditions have gotten worse,” Kraus said.

The building has been the subject of safety and code violations for years and snowballed when citations and hearings were ignored by the property owner. At one point, fines began accumulating from \$1,000 to more than \$100,000.

“All along, our top concern was for the safety and well-being of the building occupants,” said McNeely. “The condition of this building was unacceptable. The health and safety danger, especially from a fire, could not be tolerated.”

While the building is now officially shut down, the property is still owned by Fox Property Holdings.

<https://theievoice.com/with-tenants-now-relocated-heres-went-wrong-at-340-w-4th-street/>

Firefighters Douse Flames Consuming Abandoned Commercial Building

By Randy Dominguez, Key News Network

August 28, 2023



SAN BERNARDINO, CA, Aug. 28 (KNN) — San Bernardino firefighters attacked a blaze engulfing an abandoned commercial building late Sunday night. The San Bernardino County Fire Department... Read more "Firefighters Douse Flames Consuming Abandoned Commercial Building"

The San Bernardino County Fire Department was dispatched to a commercial structure fire around 11:16 p.m. in the area of North Del Rosa Avenue and East Date Place in the city of San Bernardino.

Arriving firefighters quickly went to work to extinguish the burning building with fire showing from the roof.

Firefighters knocked down the bulk of the blaze within 20 minutes of arrival.

There were no reported injuries to firefighters or civilians.

<https://roundtable.io/keynewsnetwork/uncategorized/firefighters-douse-flames-consuming-abandoned-commercial-building>