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San Bernardino County now sending ambulances to only some 911 calls as coronavirus surges

Ryan Hagen, The Sun
Posted: December 1, 2020 at 5:22PM

San Bernardino County emergency dispatchers have begun sending an ambulance to only some 911 calls, a strategy that's lightening their load as coronavirus-related calls surge.

People whose symptoms appear consistent with COVID-19 or the flu but who do not appear to need hospitalization are being visited by paramedics without an ambulance, said Steve Tracy, a spokesman for the **San Bernardino County Fire Department.**

The new policy started Friday afternoon, Nov. 27, he said.

"We're only a couple days into it, but there's already 52% reduction in transports, which is really helping the hospitals," Tracy said Monday, Nov. 30.

Riverside County has a similar plan ready but has not implemented it, Bruce Barton, head of the county's emergency management department, said Monday.

Before San Bernardino County's new policy began, some ambulances were waiting four to six hours at a hospital before they could release a patient, Tracy said.

"That ambulance is tied up," he said. "It can't respond to other emergencies."

There hasn't been a noticeable change in how quickly ambulances are responding to calls, he said.

Paramedics continue to fully assess everyone who calls 911. They advise people to take steps, including visiting urgent care centers or contacting their doctor or nurse's hotline, and leave information about how to do so, Tracy said. They also tell people to call 911 again if their condition worsens.

https://www.sbsun.com/2020/12/01/san-bernardino-county-stops-sending-ambulances-to-all-911-calls-as-coronavirus-surges/

Firefighters Extinguish Two-Alarm San Bernardino (CA) Commercial Fire

Staff Writer, Fire Engineering
Posted: December 1, 2020

This morning at 12:14 a.m., San Bernardino County (CA) fire crews were dispatched to a reported commercial structure fire in the 1400 block of West Rialto Ave., San Bernardino. According to a release from the department, multiple 911 callers stated that there multiple explosions and fire from a commercial building.

Firefighters arrived within six minutes to find heavy smoke and fire showing from a large, single-story commercial building. The well involved building was also immediately threatening multiple buildings, vehicles, and nearby vegetation. Due to the involvement and exposures, a second alarm was quickly struck.

Crews mounted a defensive fire attack, concentrating on keeping the fire to the building of origin and protecting exposures. Large volumes of water were applied via ladder pipes and hand lines. At the height of the fire, more than 3,000 gallons per minute were flowing.

While conducting initial attack, crews found an energized power line had fallen. Crews cordoned off the area until the local utility arrived to mitigate the hazard. The fire was ultimately knocked down in 30 minutes. Crews were successful in keeping the fire from spreading to adjacent structures and vegetation. The fire's cause is under investigation by San Bernardino County fire investigators.

San Bernardino County Fire responded with eight engines, two truck companies, two battalion chiefs, and a fire investigator. Colton Fire assisted with an engine company.

https://www.fireengineering.com/2020/12/01/496785/firefighters-extinguish-two-alarm-san-bernardino-ca-commercial-fire/#gref

It's official: Here's who won San Bernardino County elections Nov. 3

Ryan Hagen, The Sun
Posted: December 1, 2020 at 3:05PM

Just less than a month after Election Day, San Bernardino County officials finished counting every vote and certified the election totals Tuesday, Dec. 1.

Countywide, that's 1,702,764 votes, with 63% of those being mail ballots.

That's more than 1.5 times as many as the last presidential election in 2016 — featuring Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton at the top of the ballot, along with many local races — which drew 672,871 votes in the county, including 43% mail ballots.

Here's who won, and how many votes each candidate received, in city and county races in San Bernardino County, not including desert and mountain communities. The list does not include races with only one candidate or races for state Assembly, state Senate or Congress, which the Secretary of State will certify by Friday, Dec. 11.

San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors District 5 (Colton, Fontana, Rialto, and San Bernardino as well as the unincorporated communities of Bloomington, El Rancho Verde, Glen Helen, Arrowhead Farms, Muscoy, Little Third and Rosena Ranch): Joe Baca Jr., 69,710 votes, 58.49%; Jesse Armendarez, 49,471 votes, 41.51%

Ballot measures
San Bernardino County

Measure J, county charter revision: Yes, 378,964 votes (50.72%); No, 368,224

Measure K, Supervisor compensation reduction and term limits: Yes, 516,184 votes (66.84%); No, 256,098

San Bernardino County Fire Protection District

Measure U, Repeal Special Tax: No, 118,772 (52.03%); Yes, 109,483

Chino Hills, Measure M: 2% increase to transient occupancy tax, from 10% to 12%: Yes, 23,931 votes (64.92%); No, 12,934

Montclair, Measure L: 1% sales tax: Yes, 8,419 votes (68.84%); No, 3,810

Redlands, Measure T: 1% sales tax: Yes, 20,552 votes (57.35%); No, 15,286

San Bernardino, Measure S: 1% sales tax: Yes, 33,500 votes (56.74%); No, 25,545

Upland, Measure Q: Discontinue use of Memorial Park: No, 17,746 votes (51.95%); Yes, 17,746

https://www.sbsun.com/2020/12/01/its-official-heres-who-won-san-bernardino-county-elections-nov-3/