



NEWS



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Pallet yard fire in Jurupa Valley prompts massive response from firefighters

Rob McMillan, ABC7

Posted: December 4, 2020



A dramatic fire erupted at a pallet yard in Jurupa Valley, prompting a massive response from the fire departments of Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

JURUPA Valley, Calif. (KABC) -- A dramatic fire erupted at a pallet yard in Jurupa Valley on Thursday morning, prompting a massive response from the fire departments of Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

The fire, fueled by large piles of mulch, was reported about 11:45 a.m. in the 5000 block of Wilson Avenue, according to the Riverside County Fire Department.

Firefighters were seen dousing massive flames as strong winds in the area hampered their efforts.

The cause of the blaze is unknown.

Multiple vehicles were destroyed by the flames.

<https://abc7.com/pallet-yard-fire-jurupa-valley-bloomington-crestmore/8478045/>

California fire danger remains high even as winds ease

Christopher Weber, Associated Press

Posted: December 4, 2020 at 7:42AM



A firefighter battles a mulch and pallet fire burning out of control, fanned by Santa Ana winds in and around a recycling yard near Wilson Street and Fleetwood Drive in Riverside, Calif., Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020. Firefighters from both Riverside and San Bernardino County, along with assistance from Colton, Rialto and Riverside City Fire fought the blaze. (Will Lester/The Orange County Register via AP)

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Fire danger remained high Friday amid unpredictable wind gusts and dry conditions in Southern California, as crews made progress against blazes that burned several homes and injured two firefighters.

The region's notorious Santa Ana winds decreased slightly but red flag warnings of extreme wildfire risk were in place into the weekend because of low humidity. After the weather calms in the southern part of the state, winds are expected to increase in Northern California starting Sunday, forecasters said.

Firefighters were still busy trying to contain a number of blazes south and east of Los Angeles. The biggest began late Wednesday as a house fire in Orange County's Silverado Canyon that spread to dry brush by fierce winds. Some 25,000 people were ordered to flee their homes, although some evacuations orders were later lifted.

The fire grew to 10 square miles (26 square kilometers) and blanketed a wide area with smoke and ash. It was 10% contained as calmer conditions helped hundreds of firefighters who fought the flames on the ground and by air.

Two U.S. Forest Service firefighters were hospitalized after being hurt while battling the blaze, though it wasn't known how the injuries occurred. One was treated for a leg injury and the other suffered bruising and both were released Wednesday night, the Forest Service said on Twitter.

Some residents said they didn't receive evacuation alerts because Southern California Edison had shut off power as a precaution before the fire erupted, leaving them without cellphone service.

The fire was not far from the site of October's Silverado Fire, which also forced thousands from their homes and left two firefighters critically burned.

Crews mostly tamed two small fires that prompted evacuations in Riverside County east of Los Angeles.

And to the south, a small blaze in San Diego County that threatened about 200 residences was fully contained Thursday after destroying one home and damaging six others in a neighborhood near El Cajon.

Santa Ana winds hit 50 mph (80.5 kph) to 85 mph (137 kph) at times throughout the region beginning Wednesday night.

Numerous studies have linked bigger wildfires in America to climate change from the burning of coal, oil and gas. Scientists have said climate change has made California much drier, meaning trees and other plants are more flammable.

The fires erupted as Southern California utilities cut the power to more than 100,000 customers to avoid the threat of winds knocking down or fouling power lines and causing wildfires — something that has sparked devastating fires in recent years.

Southern California Edison cut power to nearly 50,000 homes and businesses, including those in the area where the Bond Fire started, but as winds eased the utility began restoring electricity.

San Diego Gas & Electric's precautionary blackouts affected around 73,000 customers at the peak.

California already has experienced its worst-ever year for wildfires. More than 6,500 square miles (16,835 square kilometers) have been scorched, a total larger than the combined area of Connecticut and Rhode Island. At least 31 people have been killed and 10,500 homes and other structures damaged or destroyed.

The latest fire threat comes as much of California plunges deeper into drought. Virtually all of Northern California is in severe or extreme drought while nearly all of Southern California is abnormally dry or worse.

<https://www.kget.com/news/state-news/california-winds-ease-but-fire-danger-remains-high/>

San Bernardino County becomes 10th county in U.S. to surpass 100K COVID-19 cases

Laine Henry, Kristin Scharkey and Nicole Hayden, Palm Springs Desert Sun

Posted: December 4, 2020 at 1:30PM



San Bernardino County became the 10th county in the United States to exceed 100,000 coronavirus cases Friday, according to data compiled by the public health officials and Johns Hopkins University.

For context, 13 states across the nation have yet hit the grim milestone. The entire state of Oregon, which has nearly double San Bernardino County's population, has reported just under 80,000 COVID-19 cases, according to the state's health authority.

Home to about 2.2 million people, San Bernardino County is the state's fifth-most populous county and continues to record the second-highest number of cases in California. Los Angeles County, the state's most populous, tops counties across the nation with more than 421,000 cases, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins.

San Bernardino County is home to 5.5% of the state's residents but 7.8% of California's reported COVID-19 cases.

Inland Empire:How will the COVID-19 vaccine be distributed? State offers new clues

What's my region's ICU capacity?:Here's where California stands

With 1,629 new coronavirus cases and 21 additional virus-related deaths tallied Friday, county health officials have now reported a total of 100,733 COVID-19 cases and 1,175 virus-related deaths since the pandemic began.

The county's positivity rate — the percent of tests that come back positive — sits at 11.3%, according to the state. That's compared to a low of 5% about seven weeks ago.

County no longer sending ambulances to every 911 call

As coronavirus infections continue to explode and virus patients fill local hospitals, San Bernardino County is no longer sending ambulances in response to every 911 medical calls. Suspected COVID-19 patients who are stable will be referred to other avenues of treatment, such as their primary care physician or an urgent care.

People who are under the age of 65 and do not have an underlying medical history will be advised to "stay home, self-isolate, and seek follow-up treatment with their physician, or they will be provided with an alternate destination," according to a press release from the San Bernardino County All Risk Incident Management Team.

Other non-life-threatening calls will be referred to alternative medical centers as well.

"If someone calls 911 because they ran out of a prescription and want to go to the ER to get it filled, we will send paramedics out with no ambulances and those paramedics will talk that patient through other avenues of getting that prescription such as going to urgent care or seeing a primary care doctor," **San Bernardino County Fire** spokesman Eric Sherwin told The Desert Sun.

No more ambulances: County makes policy change as virus hospitalizations surge

Lake Arrowhead: Environmental groups sue San Bernardino County to halt church

The change aims to "help reduce the strain" on the county's health care system as 911 calls and hospital visits increase amid flu season and the pandemic. San Bernardino County saw an increase of 21 COVID-19 patients Friday, raising its total to 904.

Of those, 192 are being cared for in intensive care units. That total comprises 36.8% of the county's occupied ICU beds.

Will there be a stay-at-home order?

Gov. Gavin Newsom on Thursday announced plans for a regional stay-at-home order based on hospital capacity amid a staggering rise in cases that could overwhelm the state's health care system within weeks.

San Bernardino County is in the Southern California region that also includes neighboring Riverside County as well as Los Angeles County and eight others.

The stay-at-home order, which is effective Saturday, will apply to regions facing alarmingly low levels of available hospital and intensive care unit beds. The orders will be given by region, not by county, to areas that see ICU capacity drop below 15%.

As of Thursday, the Southern California region was at 20.6% ICU capacity.

If implemented, the stay-at-home order will last three weeks and prohibit residents from gathering. Essential businesses such as grocery stores must operate at 20% capacity; bars, salons, and indoor and outdoor restaurant dining have to shut down; and hotels can only be open for critical infrastructure support.

Schools can remain open if they've received a waiver. Restaurants can continue take-out and delivery services, Newsom said.

"This is a very unfortunate development, but necessary in light of current trends," said San Bernardino County Public Health Director Corwin Porter in an email update Thursday. "The key objective is to keep our hospitals and ICU units from being overrun with new cases. The fact that our numbers are actually worse than what we saw in April should give everyone pause."

Like most of the state, San Bernardino County remains in the most restrictive purple tier of the state's four-tier, color-coded reopening plan. This means it is under a curfew issued last month by Newsom, which is active from 10 p.m. until 5 a.m.

However, Porter encouraged residents to go outside for exercise.

“We are very mindful of how staying inside and isolated can negatively affect people’s mental health,” Porter said in the email. “We advocate getting outside for a walk around your neighborhood, a run, a bike ride or to walk your dog — being sure to maintain social distancing and follow other well-known safety measures.”

How will vaccine be distributed?

The Inland Empire is included in a region of five California counties slated to receive nearly 60,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine in mid-December, state officials announced Thursday.

San Bernardino and Riverside counties join Imperial, Inyo and Mono counties in one of six regions organized statewide for vaccine distribution. Their region, Region 6, will receive 59,910 doses. Each region will be responsible for ordering their own vaccines.

Coronavirus vaccine: California to receive over 300,000 doses in mid-December

It was not immediately clear how vaccines will be distributed within regions; whether equally or based on county population size.

However, to put it in perspective: Between the five counties in Region 6, just under 30,000 people will be vaccinated during the mid-December distribution.

That's only 0.6% of the region's 4.9 million residents.

San Bernardino County: Friday's numbers

Active cases: The county's total number of known, active coronavirus cases is 9,338. This total is derived by subtracting deaths (1,175) and recoveries (90,220) from the current confirmed case total of 100,733.

Recoveries: According to the county, 90,220 people have recovered, which is an increase of 830 since Thursday. That total is about 89.6% of its overall cases.

Tests: County health officials on Friday reported that 1,162,374 coronavirus tests have been conducted — up 11,084 tests from the 1,151,290 reported Thursday. The county is urging people to get tested even if they don't have symptoms.

Who is contracting the virus? About 54.75% of the cases in the county involve people under the age of 40. The cases, broken down by age bracket, are as follows:

8,093 (8%) cases are among people ages 0 to 14
6,150 (6.1%) cases are among people ages 15-19
22,330 (22.17%) cases are among people ages 20-29
18,616 (18.48%) cases are among people ages 30-39
16,324 (16.2%) cases are among people ages 40-49
14,474 (14.37%) cases are among people ages 50-59
8,633 (8.6%) cases are among people ages 60-69
6,037 (6%) cases are among people older than 70
The ages for 76 cases (0.08%) are unknown.

About 77.9% of virus-related deaths in the county are people age 60 or older, even though people in that age bracket makeup only about 15% of cases. The deaths, broken down by age, are as follows:

No (0%) deaths were among people ages 0 to 14

No (0%) deaths were among people ages 15-19

8 (0.68%) deaths were among people ages 20-29

43 (3.66%) deaths were among people ages 30-39

62 (5.28%) deaths were among people ages 40-49

147 (12.5%) deaths were among people ages 50-59

275 (23.41%) deaths were among people ages 60-69

640 (54.47%) deaths were among people older than 70

No (0%) deaths were from an unknown age.

Where are the COVID-19 cases?

Just over 20,000 of the county's total cases have been reported in locales across the High Desert. The vast majority of those cases — 17,644 — have been reported in Victorville, Hesperia, Apple Valley, Adelanto and Barstow.

The High Desert has 204 of the county's 1,175 deaths, or about 17% of the total.

As of Friday, here is a list of confirmed cases and deaths in the High Desert, with increases from Thursday's tally in parentheses:

Adelanto: 1,978 cases (+33), 23 deaths

Apple Valley: 2,939 cases (+76), 38 deaths (+2)

Baker: 17 cases (+1)

Baldy Mesa: 1 case

Barstow: 830 cases (+19), 15 deaths

Daggett: 2 cases

Helendale: 175 cases (+4), 1 death

Hesperia: 4,680 (+93), 32 deaths

Hinkley: 17 cases (+1), 1 death

Joshua Tree: 120 cases (-1), 4 deaths

Landers: 17 cases, 1 death

Lucerne Valley: 83 cases (+4), 2 deaths

Morongo Valley: 63 cases, 1 death

Needles: 97 cases (+3), 3 deaths

Newberry Springs: 21 cases

Oak Hills: 427 cases (+4), 1 death

Oro Grande: 43 cases (+1), 1 death

Phelan: 495 cases (+10), 4 deaths

Piñon Hills: 119 cases (+4)

Pioneertown: 3 cases

Trona: 17 cases

Twentynine Palms: 242 cases (+15), 1 death

Victorville: 7,217 cases (+124), 52 deaths (+2)

Yermo: 30 cases

Yucca Valley: 374 cases (+8), 24 deaths

Here is Friday's list of cases and deaths in the mountain communities:

Angelus Oaks: 7 cases

Big Bear City: 196 cases (+7)

Big Bear Lake: 142 cases

Blue Jay: 41 cases, 1 death

Cedar Glen: 7 cases

Crestline: 163 cases (+8), 3 deaths

Fawnskin: 6 cases

Forest Falls: 13 cases

Lake Arrowhead: 113 cases (+3)

Rimforest: 11 cases

Running Springs: 61 cases (+2)

Sugarloaf: 36 cases, 1 death

Twin Peaks: 34 cases (+1), 1 death

Wrightwood: 107 cases (+2)

<https://www.desertsun.com/story/news/health/2020/12/04/san-bernardino-county-10th-u-s-surpass-100-k-covid-19-cases/3826950001/>

San Bernardino County firefighters collecting toys for children

Staff Writer, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: December 4, 2020 at 12:06PM



San Bernardino County firefighters collecting toys for children

MORONGO BASIN — **San Bernardino County fire** crews are accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys at local fire stations, to give to families in need.

Firefighters and emergency services workers will also be at Walmart from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday collecting toys and money to support local children.

San Bernardino County firefighters collecting toys for children. Dec 04, 2020 12:06 PM

MORONGO BASIN — San Bernardino County fire crews are accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys at local fire stations, to give to families in need.

Firefighters and emergency services workers will also be at Walmart from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday collecting toys and money to support local children.

“All toys and money will be used locally in the Morongo Basin,” Battalion Chief Mike McClintock said.

County fire stations are at the following locations:

- Station 41: 57201 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley.
- Station 42: 58612 Aberdeen Drive, Yucca Mesa.
- Station 36: 6715 Park Blvd., Joshua Tree.
- Station 44: 6560 Adobe Road, Twentynine Palms.

<https://hidesertstar.com/news/178491/san-bernardino-county-firefighters-collecting-toys-for-children/>

Mobile Home Fire in Twentynine Palms Monday Morning

Staff Writer, z1077fm.com

Posted: December 8, 2020



Fire officials are investigating a mobile home fire in Twentynine Palms Monday. Fire crews from Twentynine Palms, Joshua Tree, and the Combat Center were called to the 6600 block of Smoke Tree Avenue at 11:25 a.m. The fire, which is believed to have started in a bedroom, was under control in about 10 minutes. Firefighters were able to contain the blaze which was threatening another home.

<http://z1077fm.com/2020/12/08/>