



NEWS



News Headlines 03/04/2021

- Redistricting, Voting Rights Act, Primary Election 2022
- No injuries after freight train derails in San Bernardino County desert
- Up To 35 Train Cars Derail in California Desert
- BNSF train derails near Ludlow
- BNSF train derails near Ludlow spilling thousands of gallons of hazardous liquid
- A MASSIVE TRAIN DERAILMENT NEAR LUDLOW YESTERDAY

Redistricting, Voting Rights Act, Primary Election 2022

Maydeen Merino, Mountain News

Posted: March 3, 2021 at 4:04PM



Second District Supervisor Janice Rutherford

Topics discussed at Crest Forest MAC Meeting

The Crest Forest Municipal Advisory Council held their monthly meeting on Tuesday via zoom with county officials and community members speaking about local topics.

The meeting began with San Bernardino County Second District Supervisor Janice Rutherford, addressing the county's COVID-19 update and the redistricting plans. Rutherford explained that the county is likely to return to the red tier this month due to decreased cases.

"Red tier allows things to be more open than they are right now. And that's what we've been aspiring to, and we're right there. We're hoping that in the next few days, all our numbers will drop too at or below the red tier," Rutherford said.

The county is currently at eight cases per 100,000 with a positivity rate of 4%. For the county to achieve a red tier level, it must hit seven cases per 100,000 and continue to stay below a 7% positivity rate, Rutherford explained.

"Should we continue to hit those markers, we would then have two weeks to stay in those ranges. If we stay in those ranges for two weeks, we will officially be moved to the red tier. We are on track for that to happen on March 22nd; that's a Monday, that's the day we would declare ourselves red. And then the state would acknowledge that and declare us as red on Wednesday the 24th," Rutherford said.

Red tier means more flexibility to the COVID-19 restrictions with the return of indoor dining, indoor gyms, and in-person schooling with COVID-19 safety protocols.

Although many are focused on the vaccine, Rutherford emphasized that people still need to be tested. The

state requires the county to test at least 400,000 of the county's population. Rutherford moved forward to speak about the redistricting commission. A process required by all states to undergo every ten years after the census.

"All states, all jurisdictions are required to rebalance their representatives so that there's equal one person, one vote. So that means for the Board of Supervisors, we have to take the new population of San Bernardino County and divide it into five mostly equal pieces. Now, it's not just the population that has to be considered. You also have to look out for things covered under the Voting Rights Act," Rutherford said.

There are two significant changes to the process. Instead of the Board of Supervisors directly undergoing the process, a commission was created due to Measure J passing in November.

"An Advisory Commission with supervisors each appointing one member and one alternate. The presiding judge will be appointing two retired judges, one to serve as chair of the commission, the other to make sure we have an uneven number of votes. That commission will be required to hold hearings around the county," Rutherford said.

Secondly, Rutherford explained the redistricting will be difficult because the census does not have the data yet. The census data will not be available until the fall, Rutherford explained.

"Register our voters has to be preparing for next year's elections, which includes candidates pulling papers as early as December. We don't have the information till the end of September," Rutherford said. "We can't draw the districts in time to start doing next year's election process in December. The legislature has at least recognized that there was a bill introduced this week that seeks to push back next year's primary election from June to August, that would buy us two more months to do this process I've just outlined to you."

Furthermore, the meeting addressed the County of San Bernardino Board of Supervisors, approving the Lake Gregory Community Recreation Company to manage daily park operations at Lake Gregory Regional Park. The LLC Lake Gregory Community Recreation Company will manage the lake under the management of Nathan Godwin, serving as the Lake Gregory Recreation Company's new manager.

"I'm excited to be involved with the lake and to be partnering with all the different groups that are in the community because it is a tight-knit, very well-formed community. And so we're really happy to be able to step in more there and kind of get to be the centerpiece of town, if you will, with the lake," Godwin said.

Moreover, the **San Bernardino County Fire** Chief Dan Munsey addressed a special report to the meeting. Munsey emphasizes the importance of community connections.

"I've talked about the three C's. Those three C's are being very involved in our community, being a great collaborator and cooperator with our allied agencies with the counties, the communities, the cities that we serve, and being a good communicator to the community. And this meeting allows me to do all three of those things," Munsey said.

Munsey spoke about the community risk reduction to control human-made hazards and natural hazards by categorizing its impact's severity. Less than 5% of the fire service budget across the nation is spent on reducing or preventing hazards from occurring, Munsey explained.

"The legislation that we're putting forward is looking at the community risk reduction. Just because the fire is

not burning anymore doesn't mean that the emergencies are done. We need to have some criteria that would allow us to operate as a team to prevent further damage from occurring down the road," Munsey said.

Munsey explained how essential it is to educate the public on safety and how to protect their private property. "We can't do everything alone if the fire department were going to mitigate every dam and every property piece and make it fire safe. It would cost millions of dollars can't do it. But educating the public on how to protect your infrastructure is so important," Munsey said. "Our website has tons of things that you can just do around your house, including having a residential assessment program, where we'll send somebody out to meet with you and look at your property and talk about how to make it fire safe."

Brendon Biggs from the San Bernardino County Public Works also included a special report about San Moritz Drive regarding traffic and a request to make the road one-way. Public works did send out a survey for residents living near the road.

"The biggest concern, I think, is that the lower end, where the driveways are facing, it'd be better to go northbound. They had an issue, and they would be the ones that would detour around," Biggs said. "We came up with a couple of options to make a turn around at the bottom here. One is a Hammerhead, which is probably the least expensive. But it's not always desirable because you're backing up into traffic, and you get ice and stuff. So that solution would cost some money to implement if we were trying to accommodate them. Probably the safest way is a turnaround where you have a positive movement the whole time."

Biggs explained that updating the road would continue with discussing the issues with policymakers and more property owners.

Captain Don Lupear explained Twin Peaks Sheriff Department is in full-strength. Towards the end of the month, the department will begin patrolling in the forest again once the snow melts, Lupear explained. Michael Salinas from CHP explained it had been an uneventful month. The office will also be hiring an office assistant soon. Anthony Rapoza from County Fire explained there it has also been an uneventful month with fewer calls.

On Friday, the Twin Peak Station and CHP will be having "A Coffee and Carve with a Cop" in Snow Valley. The event begins at 8:30 a.m., with ski runs starting at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m., and the next Crest Forest Municipal Advisory Council meeting will be held on April 6th, 2021.

<https://mountain-news.com/news/40304/redistricting-voting-rights-act-primary-election-2022/>

No injuries after freight train derails in San Bernardino County desert

Staff Writer, Associated Press/KTLA 5 News

Posted: March 3, 2021 at 8:53PM



This photo released by the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department shows a derailed cargo train in the desert east of Ludlow that sent more than two dozen rail cars crashing into the sand on March 3, 2021.

A freight train derailed in the San Bernardino County desert on Wednesday, sending more than 40 rail cars crashing into the sand, authorities said.

Nobody was hurt and there was no fire when the BNSF Railway train went off the tracks around midday east of the remote Mojave community of Ludlow, the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department said on Twitter.

Photos and video tweeted by the fire department showed cars piled up along the tracks, some on their sides.

A hazardous materials spill was quickly mitigated, the fire department said.

The train was carrying mixed freight, Kent said.

Investigators will try to determine the cause of the crash some 150 miles northeast of Los Angeles.

<https://ktla.com/news/local-news/no-injuries-after-freight-train-derails-in-san-bernardino-county-desert/>

Up To 35 Train Cars Derail in California Desert

Staff Writer, Associated Press

Posted: March 3, 2021 at 7:54PM



Nobody was hurt and there was no fire when the BNSF train went off the tracks near the remote Mojave community of Ludlow, the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department said on Twitter.

A cargo train derailed in the Southern California desert on Wednesday, sending more than two dozen rail cars crashing into the sand, authorities said.

Nobody was hurt and there was no fire when the BNSF train went off the tracks near the remote Mojave community of Ludlow, the San Bernardino County Fire Department said on Twitter.

Photos and video tweeted by the fire department showed cars piled up along the tracks, some on their sides.

Between 25 and 35 cars derailed, the department said.

A hazardous materials spill was quickly mitigated, officials said.

BNSF didn't immediately respond to a request for additional details about the crash some 150 miles (240 kilometers) northeast of Los Angeles.

<https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/rest-of-the-world-news/up-to-35-train-cars-derail-in-california-desert.html>

BNSF train derails near Ludlow

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News Press

Posted: March 4, 2021 at 6:00AM



This photo released by the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

LUDLOW, Calif. (VVNG.com) — **San Bernardino County** firefighters and Haz-Mat specialists responded to a cargo train derailment near Ludlow on Wednesday afternoon.

It happened on March 3, 2021, at about 1:00 PM, half a mile east of Ludlow near National Trails Highway. County Fire officials said an estimated 25-35 railcars derailed, some carrying hazardous materials.

The scene was quickly accessed, and Haz-Mat personnel found one round tank car leaking a flammable liquid known as denatured alcohol (similar to ethanol).

SBCoFire and BNSF Haz-Mat were able to enter the tank car and mitigate the hazard. Overall it is estimated that several thousand gallons had leaked from the unit.

About a 2 mile stretch of National Trails Highway near Ludlow remains closed and there was no impact to nearby I-40.

San Bernardino County Fire and BNSF remain on scene to ensure no other leaks and oversee the extensive clean-up process. No injuries were reported, and the cause is under investigation.

<https://www.vvng.com/bnsf-train-derails-near-ludlow/>

BNSF train derails near Ludlow spilling thousands of gallons of hazardous liquid

Staff Writer, Victorville Daily Press

Posted: March 3, 2021 at 5:46PM



This photo released by the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

A train derailed in the Mojave Desert on Wednesday afternoon caused thousands of gallons of flammable liquid to spill from a railcar before crews stopped the leak.

The BNSF train derailed about a half-mile east of Ludlow — a community about 50 miles east of Barstow — and near National Trails Highway, **San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesperson Tracey Martinez said.

About 25 to 35 railcars were involved, Martinez said. County fire drone footage showed the cars zigzagged on the track in the remote desert area.

BNSF spokesperson Lena Kent said in an email Wednesday evening that the crash happened around 12:20 p.m. and that 44 cars derailed according to "initial reports."

Martinez said one of the "round tank cars" was carrying denatured alcohol and released "several thousand gallons" of the flammable liquid.

"Our hazmat unit actually entered the tank and were able to patch the leak," she said.

Denatured alcohol is commonly used as a solvent, as well as for fueling camping stoves.

No injuries were reported, according to fire officials who said they received the call at about 1 p.m.

County fire reported shortly after 4:30 p.m. that the leak had been "mitigated" and that county fire and BNSF railway personnel remained at the scene for an "extensive clean-up process."

Martinez said nearby Interstate 40 was not impacted by the crash.

The California Highway Patrol reported at 2:45 p.m. that National Trails Highway was being closed from Ludlow to two miles east of the community for an unknown duration.

Martinez said it was typical for county hazmat crews to isolate for a thousand feet to contain leaks.

The train was traveling from Kansas City, Kansas to Barstow when it derailed and was carrying "mixed freight," BSNF spokesperson Kent said.

She said the cause was under investigation.

<https://www.vvdailynews.com/story/news/2021/03/03/bnsf-train-derails-near-ludlow-causing-leak-hazardous-liquid/6913964002/>

A MASSIVE TRAIN DERAILMENT NEAR LUDLOW YESTERDAY

Staff Writer, z1077fm.com

Posted: March 4, 2021



Some of the tank cars leaked thousands of gallons of denatured alcohol. **San Bernardino County Fire** photo.

San Bernardino County firefighters and Haz-Mat specialists responded to a massive cargo train derailment one-half mile east of Ludlow near National Trails Highway at 1:00 yesterday afternoon (March 4).

According to County Fire, an estimated 25-35 railcars derailed, some carrying hazardous materials. Haz-Mat personnel found one round tank car leaking denatured alcohol. County Fire and the railroad Haz-Mat were able to enter the tank car and mitigate the hazard. It is estimated that several thousand gallons had leaked.

There were no injuries and the cause is under investigation. About a two-mile stretch of National Trails Highway near Ludlow remains closed. There was no impact to nearby I-40. County Fire and railroad teams remain on scene to ensure no other leaks and oversee the extensive clean-up process.

There were no injuries reported.

<http://z1077fm.com/a-massive-train-derailment-near-ludlow-yesterday/#respond>