



# NEWS



## News Headlines 03/23/2021

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## After huge fireworks explosion in Ontario, residents of Fontana ask: Could it happen here too?

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: March 22, 2021



These were a few of the illegal fireworks confiscated by the Fontana Police Department in 2019.

Inland Empire residents were horrified to see the disastrous results of a huge fireworks explosion which killed two people at an Ontario residence on March 16.

The explosion, which caused at least \$3.2 million worth of damage to homes in that neighborhood, left some Fontana residents wondering whether a similar catastrophe could take place in their city, considering that the igniting of illegal fireworks is quite common during several months each year.

"The Fontana Police Department is committed to ensuring our community is safe from illegal and dangerous fireworks," said Fontana P.D. Captain Michael Dorsey. "Due to the incident that occurred in Ontario last week, we are working with County Fire personnel and looking at establishing a task force to combat illegal fireworks."

The Fontana P.D. seizes thousands of pounds of illegal fireworks each year. The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department has reported that small fires, including ones caused by fireworks, have erupted in Fontana during annual Independence Day celebrations.

"At this time, we have no information of people who are in possession of illegal fireworks; however, we encourage our residents to remain vigilant and to report any suspicious activities. All reports will be investigated," Dorsey said.

He said that calls relating to the use of illegal fireworks are fairly common in Fontana.

"They obviously increase during the July 4th holiday and Christmas/New Years. They tend to taper off during the rest of the year," Dorsey said. "We increase enforcement activities as holidays approach and have undercover teams who are constantly searching for individuals who are engaged in the use and sales of illegal fireworks. The use of illegal fireworks will result in citations to those responsible and there are increased civil and criminal penalties for those who are engaged in selling illegal fireworks."

"Safe and sane" fireworks are permitted under certain circumstances in Fontana, but many Fontana residents, angered by the sounds of illegal fireworks being set off, have called for the city to ban all fireworks.

However, fireworks are illegal in Ontario, but that didn't prevent the deadly explosion from taking place in that city.

[https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/after-huge-fireworks-explosion-in-ontario-residents-of-fontana-ask-could-it-happen-here-too/article\\_39eaf9a8-8b66-11eb-8b04-af8caedd6107.html](https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/after-huge-fireworks-explosion-in-ontario-residents-of-fontana-ask-could-it-happen-here-too/article_39eaf9a8-8b66-11eb-8b04-af8caedd6107.html)

## Team Tablet Command

Jim McKay, Government Technology

Posted: March 23, 2021 for April/May 2021 Issue



Andy Bozzo, founder and CDO, and Will Pigeon, founder and CTO

Andy Bozzo and Will Pigeon are two firefighters in Contra Costa County, Calif., who knew the most pressing need for firefighters was the ability to track resources, especially human resources, when in a firefight. So they set out to do something about it.

In 2007, they put their heads together and developed [Tablet Command](#), a software-as-a-service tool that helps first responders manage resources and staff at the scene of a disaster. It's been a staple at fire departments in the San Francisco Bay Area for years, providing the situational awareness that can mean the difference between life and death.

Bozzo and Pigeon have been sharing their technology ever since and continue to run Tablet Command, the business. But 2020 was a breakthrough year and the company expanded into San Bernardino County, which thought so highly of the software it replaced its Mobile Data Terminals with it.

“**San Bernardino County Fire** uses it in every frontline response unit to include our fire engines, squads, ambulances, chief officers, snow cat, boats and helicopter,” Jeff Birchfield, assistant chief for Division 1 of the San Bernardino Fire Department, told [Emergency Management](#) magazine.\* “We have found it to be a very effective tool with use of map layers and CAD notes, while en route to incidents, providing situational awareness for our battalion chiefs to monitor unit status within their battalions.”

“We continually strive to enhance our platform based on feedback from our users in the field, so they can have access to the most timely, appropriate and comprehensive information possible in a user interface that is easy to interpret in high-stress environments,” Bozzo said. “Our purpose is rooted in our commitment to the safety of emergency response personnel and the citizens they serve.”

Tablet Command will continue to make improvements, and the next iteration will give commanders in neighboring counties the ability to share each other's communications, said Van Riviere, president and CEO of Tablet Command and a former battalion chief in Stockton, Calif. “It's only limited by the imagination and bandwidth.”

<https://www.govtech.com/top-25/2021/Team-Tablet-Command.html>

## **Havasu Lake, CA: Crash involving two vehicles along northbound U.S. Route 95 just south of Havasu Lake Road**

Zachary Lopez, ZachNews

Posted: March 23, 2021



Havasu Lake, California: Crash involving two vehicles has occurred along northbound U.S. Route 95 just south of Havasu Lake Road.

The call came in at 1:11 a.m. PT on Tuesday, March 23rd, 2021 via an OnStar alert.

Medical Engine 32 from the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department's Station 32 in Needles, California along with Medical Ambulance 31A and Medical Brush Patrol 18 from the San Bernardino County Fire Department's Station 18 from Havasu Lake, California is responding to the crash.

As of 1:36 a.m. PT, Comm-Center informed by Medical Brush Patrol 18 that they are trying to locate, and Medical Engine 32 to hold at Havasu Lake Roan until locate.

As of 1:38 a.m. PT, Medical Engine 32 on scene of a crash involving two vehicles.

As of 1:40 a.m. PT, Medical Ambulance 31A reports non-injury crash, cancel other responding units.

As of 2:35 a.m. PT, A Tow Truck towing service has been called to the scene.

Motorists should drive with caution through the area.

<https://zachnews.net/2021/03/23/breaking-news-havasu-lake-ca-crash-involving-two-vehicles-along-northbound-u-s-route-95-just-south-of-havasu-lake-road/>

## Needles, CA: Basement fire inside a burned vacant residential structure along the 1,500 block of Washington Street

Zachary Lopez, ZachNews

Posted: March 23, 2021



Needles, California: Firefighters from **San Bernardino County Fire** Department and Mohave Valley Fire Department are on scene of a basement fire inside a burned vacant residential structure along the 1,500 block of Washington Street.

The call came in at 6:32 a.m. PT on Tuesday, March 23rd, 2021.

No reports of any injuries, and the cause of the basement fire is under investigation with an arson investigator in route.

The basement fire occurring on a windy morning at the site of a previous triplex residential structure and vegetation fire that occurred back on Saturday, October 17th, 2020.

<https://zachnews.net/2021/03/23/breaking-news-needles-ca-basement-fire-inside-a-burned-vacant-residential-structure-along-the-1500-block-of-washington-street/>