



# NEWS



## News Headlines 04/24 – 04/26/2021

- Illegal fireworks fines could stiffen in unincorporated Riverside County
- IVDA approves amendment for next phase of Mountain View Project
- Driver ejected from truck after crashing into tree in Hesperia
- Firefighters put out flames in mobile home
- County to Issue Contact-Free Citations for Illegal Fireworks
- Multi-Vehicle Crash on 40 Freeway in Essex Leaves 1 Driver Dead

## Illegal fireworks fines could stiffen in unincorporated Riverside County

Jeff Horseman, The Press-Enterprise

Posted: April 23, 2021 at 7:31PM



Fines for setting off fireworks in unincorporated Riverside County would stiffen and property owners could be fined under proposed changes to the county's fireworks ordinance.

The changes, which are on the Board of Supervisors' Tuesday, April 27, agenda, are meant to prevent a repeat of last year's Fourth of July, when widespread illegal fireworks throughout the county sparked fires, rattled residents' and animals' nerves and overwhelmed 911 dispatchers, sheriff's deputies and firefighters.

Almost 8,000 fireworks and shots fired calls were received between June 26 and July 5, 2020, and on July Fourth, calls for service jumped from the average of 3,000 per day to roughly 8,600 — one in four of those related to fireworks or shots filed — Sheriff Chad Bianco told supervisors in July.

Deputies also responded to reports of vehicles and houses being hit by bullets fired into the air, the sheriff said.

Wildfire and false-alarm calls surged after 8 p.m. last July Fourth, when a number of city fireworks shows were canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic. Supervisor Kevin Jeffries said there were brush fires at the base of the Cleveland National Forest and near Lake Mathews — “some without fire engines for a while.”

In an email, county spokeswoman Brooke Federico said: “The danger posed by illegal fireworks has become increasingly significant throughout Southern California, including Riverside County, causing several fires and injuries each year.”

She noted the massive explosion in Ontario last month of a commercial grade fireworks cache in a residential area that killed two and damaged surrounding homes.

Last year's problems led to the creation of a county working group with representatives from the sheriff's office, fire department, code enforcement and the county counsel's office. They came up with changes to the county's existing fireworks ordinance, including:

Boosting civil penalties. The fine for a first offense would rise from between \$500 and \$1,000 to \$1,000 flat, with a \$2,000 fine for the second offense and \$5,000 for third offenses if repeat infractions happen within three years of the first violation. Violators already can be jailed for up to a year if convicted.

Holding property owners liable — whether or not they set off fireworks — if their property is used to launch illegal fireworks.

Allowing sale and use of “safe and sane fireworks” on the Fourth at “an authorized county site” permitted by the fire chief.

While the changes to the fireworks ordinance would only apply to unincorporated areas, it’s not uncommon for cities to change their laws to align with what the county does.

Besides revising the county’s fireworks rules, staff also want to launch an advertising campaign to educate the public about the dangers of fireworks and the stiffer penalties for violating the ordinance.

Budgeting extra overtime for code enforcement officers to enforce the new law before and during the Fourth, as well as the ad campaign, are expected to cost \$100,000 total, according to a report. Revenue from fireworks fines could offset that cost, the report read.

The amended ordinance is set for introduction Tuesday, with final adoption scheduled for May 11. It would go into effect 30 days after that.

The changes come as other local governments take steps to crack down on illegal fireworks. Hemet’s City Council in February doubled the city’s illegal fireworks fine to \$1,000. And earlier this month, the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department launched a website to anonymously report the use and sale of illicit pyrotechnics.

<https://www.pe.com/2021/04/23/illegal-fireworks-fines-could-stiffen-in-unincorporated-riverside-county/>

## IVDA approves amendment for next phase of Mountain View Project

Jason Miller, Highland News

Posted: April 23, 2021



Members of the Inland Valley Development Agency (IVDA) gathered on Wednesday, April 14, to approve an amendment to Phase Two of the Mountain View Widening Project and to modify an agreement with **San Bernardino County Fire** and the San Bernardino Community College District to operate the San Bernardino Regional Emergency Training Center.

Phase Two of the Mountain View Widening Project includes the demolition and replacement of the bridge at Mission Creek and the replacement and widening of Mountain View Avenue.

The amendment, which will cost an additional \$48,830, was requested after extra engineering services were required during construction in the flood control channel/crossing to complete the project.

The board also authorized staff to mutually modify the San Bernardino Regional Emergency Training Center (SBRETC) joint powers agreement to transition administrative oversight from the San Bernardino Community College District to the IVDA, which would update the original agreement approved in 1998.

The center trains and certifies firefighters from all over the United States and across the world in the latest live-fire Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting training.

Under the proposed form of the Amended and Restated Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement for the SBRETC, the IVDA would join the SBRETC JPA as a member and assume administrative functions for the business operations and financial compliance for the center's day-to-day operations.

The college district, at its option, may continue to participate or withdraw, but will continue to align with the center for placement of potential training candidates and referrals. The San Bernardino County Fire Protection District will continue to serve as an active member and provide the actual fire training and instruction services on a go-forward basis.

As drafted, there is no direct cost for IVDA to participate given that it will assume certain administrative functions. Existing IVDA contract staff and personnel would simply cost-allocate administrative time, which would be compensable from revenues of the SBRETC.

Under the proposed Amended and Restated SBRETC JPA, the newly constituted SBRETC Commission would be composed of two members appointed by the IVDA, two members appointed by the county of San Bernardino Board of Supervisors and one additional at-large appointee from any agency the parties determine will be beneficial for the development and operation of the SBRETC.

The draft document now goes to San Bernardino Community College District and **San Bernardino County Fire** for review.

The next IVDA meeting will be on Tuesday, May 12.

[https://www.highlandnews.net/business/ivda-approves-amendment-for-next-phase-of-mountain-view-project/article\\_470a7bc0-a454-11eb-ad02-cf6c24dc3f33.html](https://www.highlandnews.net/business/ivda-approves-amendment-for-next-phase-of-mountain-view-project/article_470a7bc0-a454-11eb-ad02-cf6c24dc3f33.html)

## **Driver ejected from truck after crashing into tree in Hesperia**

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News Group

Posted: April 25, 2021



HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A driver was ejected from a pickup truck and seriously injured after crashing into a tree Sunday morning in Hesperia.

The crash happened just before 5:30 am, on April 25, 2021, along the 18900 block of Rock Springs Road near Sheffield Street.

San Bernardino County Fire responded and located a white Nissan Frontier with major front-end damage blocking the roadway. Firefighters reported the driver of the truck was ejected after colliding with a tree.

The critically injured driver was transported by ground ambulance to Mercy Air helipad at the Hesperia airport and subsequently airlifted to a trauma center.

Rock Springs Road was briefly shut down in both directions as deputies investigated and the scene was cleared up.

The cause of the accident is under investigation and anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the Hesperia Police Department at 760-947-1500.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t13xGhNp754&t=32s>

<https://www.vvng.com/driver-ejected-from-truck-after-crashing-into-tree-in-hesperia/>

## Firefighters put out flames in mobile home

Staff Writer, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: April 23, 2021 at 12:11PM



A mobile home in the 61000 Block of Valley View Street in Joshua Tree caught fire Wednesday morning. The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department responded to the call in 5 minutes.

**JOSHUA TREE** — A mobile home under renovation partly burned Wednesday in Joshua Tree.

The fire was reported at 10:17 a.m. Wednesday in the 61000 block of Valley View Street.

**County fire** Battalion Chief Michael McClintock said firefighters arrived within 5 minutes to find smoke showing from a double-wide mobile home.

They found a room and its contents burning with flames moving into the attic space.

Crews knocked the fire down in approximately 15 minutes.

“While completing a fire attack crews also completed a search of the home to ensure no residents were trapped. All searches of the home came up negative,” McClintock said.

The mobile home was under renovation at the time of the fire, which is under investigation by county fire department investigators, but seems to be accidental in nature, the battalion chief said.

<https://hidesertstar.com/news/179028/firefighters-put-out-flames-in-mobile-home/>

## County to Issue Contact-Free Citations for Illegal Fireworks

Staff Writer, z1077fm.com

Posted: April 26, 2021



**San Bernardino County Fire** Prevention Officers will use a new tool to combat illegal fireworks—contact-free citations. Rather than chasing down people using illegal pyrotechnics, fire investigators will use geographic information systems (GIS) data to pinpoint the exact location of the violation. Fire investigators will take photographs and collect other evidence before remotely issuing the property owner an administrative citation that carries a fine of up to \$1,250. The citations usually arrive about a week to two weeks after being issued. Landlords may want to remind their tenants not to use illegal fireworks since the citation will be issued to the owner of record, not the tenant.

“Property owners are responsible for what occurs on their property,” Deputy Fire Marshal Adam Panos said.

Property owners will also be given the opportunity to appeal citations.

Fire Marshal Mike Horton said County Fire will utilize contact-free citations in all the communities it serves. In addition to all unincorporated areas, County Fire locally serves the Town of Yucca Valley and the City of Twentynine Palms.

Fire investigators will also directly issue \$1,250 administrative citations to those caught using illegal fireworks at parks, in the street, or in other public places.

<http://z1077fm.com/county-to-issue-contact-free-citations-for-illegal-fireworks/>



## Multi-Vehicle Crash on 40 Freeway in Essex Leaves 1 Driver Dead

Staff Writer, [usaaccidentlawyer.com](http://usaaccidentlawyer.com)

Posted: April 23, 2021



Albert Henry Sweeney died in a multi-vehicle crash in Essex Tuesday night, April 20.

Around 6:08 p.m., California Highway Patrol and **San Bernardino County Fire** Department personnel responded to 40 Freeway near mile marker 87.

Upon arrival, Sweeney who was driving a Ford van died at the scene. He was a 71-year-old Kingman, Arizona resident.

The exact number of vehicles and the condition of the other parties involved were not immediately known.

At this time, CHP officials are still investigating the ultimate cause of the crash.

<https://usaccidentlawyer.com/news/albert-sweeney-killed-multi-vehicle-accident-40-freeway-essex-ca/>