



# NEWS



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## Web Extra: San Bernardino County Fire Marshal, Mike Horton

Staff Writer, KCAL9

Posted: May 10, 2021



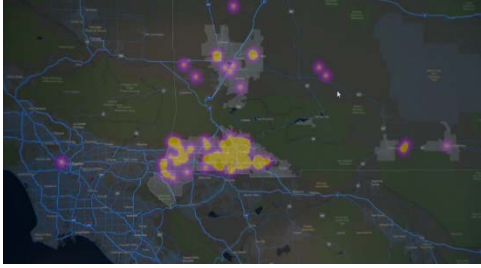
**San Bernardino County Fire Marshal Horton** talks about the latest technology used to find illegal fireworks users and sellers.

<https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/video/5572292-web-extra-san-bernardino-county-fire-marshal-mike-horton/>

## San Bernardino County Cracking Down on Sale, Use of Illegal Fireworks with New Reporting Tool

Staff Writer, CBSLA

Posted: May 10, 2021 at 11:21PM



ONTARIO (CBSLA) — It was just about lunchtime on a sunny Tuesday in March when Arlene Fierro started recording a series of fireworks exploding in her neighbor’s backyard.

“We have heard those sounds before,” she said. “So that was, I guess, the scarier part. We didn’t really expect it at all because it was something that happened on the daily.”

Within minutes, as she ran inside to check on her family, came the massive and deadly bomb-like blast. Her family made it out OK, but Fierro’s mom is still traumatized by what they went through.

“I’m outside and my daughter’s in danger inside,” she said about the blast through tears.

Two men at the home were killed by what authorities said was a huge stash of illegal fireworks that they were possibly selling.

Following the explosion, residents said they had reported the use of illegal fireworks to police numerous times. According to records kept by the Ontario Police Department, officers had responded to 50 illegal fireworks calls within a one block radius of the home in the past year — about one call per week — but nothing changed.

The Fierro family said they too had tried to report the activity before.

“I remember being pretty specific, saying, ‘My neighbor’s next door are doing illegal fireworks,’” Fierro said.

Just weeks after the blast, **San Bernardino County Fire** Department officials launched a new tool to help crack down on the use and sale of illegal fireworks, and the public reporting and mapping system has tips coming in by the minute.

The map shows where the most reporting activity has taken place over the last few weeks. Fire Marshal Mike Horton said the department then uses that information to help pinpoint where to send investigators.

“We can deploy resources out and be more effective in the field and try to reduce the problem of fireworks in our county,” Horton said.

Fire officials said the popularity and profitability of illegal fireworks means an explosion like the one that rocked the Ontario neighborhood could easily happen again.

“It’s being sold out of residences, out of commercial properties, out of storage units,” Horton said. “It’s being advertised on social media.”

One report that came into the new system had a photo of someone selling illegal fireworks online. Over the past year, tons of illegal fireworks were seized in San Bernardino County — either purchased out of state, south of the border or even through ports like Long Beach.

“And that’s just the tip of the iceberg,” Horton said.

He said the illegal firework trade can even have a larger profit margin these days than drugs.

“We see the discounts that people are getting on these fireworks,” Horton said. “Buy three boxes for the price of one.”

Horton said dealers then bring those fireworks back into the county and sell them online with an at least 100% profit margin — turning hundreds of dollars into thousands through illegal sales.

Mike Tockstein, with Pyrotechnic Innovations, said people can easily forget the dangers as they put on a show.

“You could be wearing the wrong clothing and cause an [electrostatic discharge] spark,” he said.

Over the past four years, San Bernardino County has confiscated more than 121,600 pounds of dangerous and illegal fireworks — enough to fill about three large semi-trucks — and issued more than 700 citations, but the sale and use of illegal fireworks continues to climb.

Fire investigators said they hope the new reporting system can help prevent another tragedy.

“It just makes me think that there’s little ticking time bombs in every city,” Fierro said. “It’s not going to really change unless people are reporting it, taking the picture and stuff, that’s the only helpful thing that I can think of, but it’s scary knowing that they’re out there.”

<https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2021/05/10/san-bernardino-county-illegal-fireworks-reporting-mapping/>

## Victorville House Fire Kills 12-Year-Old Boy, Injures 3 Young Children

Staff Writer, CBSLA

Posted: May 10, 2021 at 3:11PM



VICTORVILLE (CBSLA) — A 12-year-old boy is dead Monday after a fire broke out at a Victorville home.

Authorities responded to a home in the 13400 block of Hidden Valley Road late Friday night on the report of a house fire. Four children were reported to be inside the home on the second floor.

The children were all rescued and taken to local area hospitals, but a 12-year-old boy was later pronounced dead. His name has not been released.

A 5-year-old girl, and two boys, ages 5 and 10, remain hospitalized in critical condition. Two adults who were home at the time of the fire able to get out of the home and were not injured.

The cause of the fire is under investigation by the San Bernardino County sheriff's arson/bomb detail and the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department.

Anyone with information about the fire can contact the Victor Valley Sheriff's Station at (760) 552-6800.

<https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2021/05/10/victorville-house-fire-kills-12-year-old-boy-injures-3-young-children/>

## Flores Fire in Summit Valley north of Silverwood Lake held to 27 acres

Rene Ray De La Cruz, Victorville Daily Press

Posted: May 10, 2021 at 4:37PM



The Flores Fire that broke out Monday, May 10, 2021, near Highway 173 and Las Flores Road in Summit Valley was contained to 27 acres by firefighters, authorities said. Courtesy of Cal Fire.

Firefighting crews held a wildfire to about 27 acres after it broke out Monday in the Summit Valley of Hesperia and north of Silverwood Lake, authorities said.

Smoke could be seen in parts of Hesperia and Oak Hills as multiple agencies responded by air and ground to the vegetation fire — dubbed the Flores Fire — reported just before noon near Highway 173 and Las Flores Road, according to the Cal Fire Twitter account.

**San Bernardino County Fire** and U.S. Forest Service firefighters helped with the blaze. The crews stopped its forward spread at about 2 p.m.

No immediate homes were in the area threatened by the fire. Also, the fire was adjacent to a recent training burn area, but was unrelated to the fire on Monday, SBC Fire said.

Cal Fire originally reported that the fire had burned more than 20 acres but later said that “with more accurate mapping, (the) fire was contained to 12 acres.”

On Monday night, SBC Fire said the fire was stopped at 27 acres.

Fire crews will remain at the scene to reinforce control lines, mop up and patrol the area.

The cause of the fire is under investigation, Cal Fire reported.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/story/news/fire/2021/05/10/flores-fire-summit-valley-north-silverwood-lake-held-12-acres/5030332001/>

## Firefighters get hands-on experience at nation's only bulldozer training academy

Marc Cota-Robles, ABC7

Posted: May 10, 2021 at 6:09PM



During wildfires, we often see bulldozers clearing brush, building fire breaks and more. It's tricky, but important work; and there is just one "Dozer Training Academy" in the entire nation and it's in San Bernardino County.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY (KABC) -- During wildfires, we often see bulldozers clearing brush, building fire breaks and more. It's difficult and important work. There is just one Dozer Training Academy in the entire nation and it's in San Bernardino County.

Mastering the machinery isn't easy. In fact, there's a lot of risk associated with operating bulldozers on the front lines of a fast-moving fire, where the natural environment can be dangerous. That's why the **San Bernardino Fire** Protection District is putting operators, old and new, through Dozer Academy. In the training, firefighters are working with live fire.

"There's no way to duplicate live fire without that, in a real setting with real terrain, wind, all the things that can actually change," said Ted Mohr, dozer operator, San Bernardino County Fire Department.

<https://abc7.com/firefighters-get-hands-on-experience-at-nations-only-bulldozer-training-academy-in-san-bernardino-co/10610530/>

## Commercial Structure Fire | SAN BERNARDINO, CA 5.1.21

Staff Writer, Loudlabs News

Posted: May 10, 2021



SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA - **San Bernardino County Fire** responded to reports of a commercial structure fire near the intersection of Highland Ave and North Mountain Ave in the City of San Bernardino. When firefighters arrived at the scene, they located fire through the roof of an abandoned restaurant that had burned a few weeks ago.

The building was deemed a loss and firefighters moved to a defensive strategy.

No other information was provided at the scene.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5j8mvIII\\_w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5j8mvIII_w)



## Upland family among dozens displaced by apartment fire speaks out

Wendy Burch, KTLA 5

Posted: May 10, 2021 at 3:49PM



A family on Monday is speaking out nearly a week after they were among dozens of residents who were displaced by a fire that tore through an apartment complex in Upland.

Fire damages 40 units in Upland apartment building, injures firefighter and kills pets

The blaze erupted at the two-story building last Tuesday, damaging 40 apartments, killing pets and injuring a firefighter.

Wendy Burch reports for the KTLA 5 News at 6 on May 10, 2021.

<https://ktla.com/news/local-news/upland-family-among-dozens-displaced-by-apartment-fire-speaks-out/>