



NEWS



News Headlines 05/14/2021

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Fire crews respond to 5-acre brush fire near San Bernardino, forward spread stopped

Quinn Wilson, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: May 13, 2021 at 7:43PM



The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department stopped the forward spread of a five-acre brush fire near Waterman Canyon north of San Bernardino on Thursday evening, May 13.

The fire was reported around 5:47 p.m. and was initially a threat to the San Bernardino National Forest before fire crews arrived, according to Capt. Jeremy Kern with the Fire Department. At about 6:35 p.m., the Fire Department got a hose line around the fire, Kern said.

Additional crews were also requested to help with “extensive mop-up” on the area as the fire continued to smolder, according to Kern.

The San Bernardino National Forest’s fire crews assisted in the incident as well.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2021/05/13/fire-crews-respond-to-5-acre-brush-fire-near-san-bernardino-forward-spread-stopped/>

Fun vaccination events set in San Bernardino County

Dina Colunga, Redlands Community News

Posted: May 13, 2021



San Bernardino County plans to hold “Fire and Ice Cream” events where residents can receive vaccinations.

The county, in partnership with the **San Bernardino County Fire** Protection District, will lead a parade of fire trucks, other emergency vehicles, the county’s Our Shot for Hope mobile vaccination van, an ice cream truck and a churro van through streets where the county will provide the free treats and vaccinations. No appointment is necessary. “‘Fire and Ice Cream’ - is an example of how committed we are to making vaccines available across the county, especially in vulnerable or hard-to-reach neighborhoods,” said Board of Supervisors Chairman Curt Hagman. “We’re happy to do this in conjunction with our county fire department. Firefighters are trusted heroes in our communities, and nothing draws attention like fire trucks and ice cream trucks.”

The county said it would announce dates and times for the event soon.

As of Tuesday, May 11, 1.2 million vaccine doses have been administered to county residents.

The county has received 508,365 doses of the Pfizer vaccine, 411,700 of the Moderna vaccine and 53,200 of Johnson & Johnson’s vaccine.

Redlands numbers

Redlands is among the cities with the most people vaccinated. A total of 36,323 residents have received a vaccination. According to the county, there are 58,713 Redlands residents ages 16 and older. Redlands has vaccinated 61.9% of these residents.

As of May 11, Redlands Community Hospital has administered 27,306 total doses. Beaver Medical Group has administered 15,977 doses. Redlands Urgent Care Center has administered 3,972 doses, and the Rite Aid Pharmacy on Redlands Boulevard has administered 2,970 doses.

https://www.redlandscommunitynews.com/news/public_safety/fun-vaccination-events-set-in-san-bernardino-county/article_6990f824-b41f-11eb-b687-875c9e0a9c4a.html

Victorville to hire six new firefighters with plans to reopen fire station full time

Martin Estacio, Victorville Daily Press

Posted: May 13, 2021 at 4:54PM



Victorville Fire Department Station 315 on Eucalyptus Street in an updated photo. *Daily Press File Photo*

Victorville plans to reopen a fire station in the southwestern part of the city, a move that officials believe will improve response time for emergencies in the area.

The City Council on Tuesday unanimously approved the hiring of six firefighter-paramedics who will staff Victorville Fire Department's Station 315 on Eucalyptus Street near Sunset Ridge Park.

When the station opens later this year, it will mark the first time the facility has been used on a full-time basis since its construction in 2009.

That year, the city contracted its fire services to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**. Victorville later returned to running its own department in 2019.

"Fire Station 315 was not previously open or operational due to monetary issues caused in large part by the Great Recession," city spokesperson Sue Jones said in an email Thursday.

According to City Manager Keith Metzler, the closest fire engine currently takes more than five minutes to respond to calls in 315's coverage area.

"So this will definitely beef up our ability to attend to any medical issues, certainly in the southwestern part of town," he said.

The new hires will run a two-person, full-time crew using a medic squad vehicle until the city purchases a new fire engine for the station.

Metzler said the city plans to reopen the station by July 3.

The reopening is one of several goals staff laid out in a public safety plan presented to the City Council last year, which spurred the placing of Measure P on the November 2020 ballot.

Voters passed the one-cent sales tax measure. It went into effect April 1.

Initially, though, the new firefighters' salaries will not be funded via Measure P funds. Instead, their hiring, which will cost more than \$45,000 for the month of June, will be covered by savings from a vacant chief position, according to a staff report.

Measure P funds will be used to purchase the new engine for the station, equipment that Metzler said could take a year or longer to secure.

The Measure P Oversight Committee must first submit a letter to the City Council, “advising if the City has complied with” the measure’s intent before a recommendation for the purchase can be made, officials said.

The committee held its first meeting on Thursday.

The new engine is expected to cost an estimated \$700,000. Once the engine is purchased and placed at the station, a three-person crew would replace the medic squad and staff the station full time.

John Mendiola, the city’s budget officer, said Measure P revenue could start to arrive as early as “late June, early July.”

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/story/news/fire/2021/05/13/victorville-hire-six-new-firefighters-plans-reopen-fire-station-full-time/5080932001/>

Arson K-9 Joins Fire Investigation Team

SBCoFD Press Release, High Desert Daily

Posted: May 13, 2021



(Victor Valley)– There’s a new dog in town. **San Bernardino County Fire** Protection District (SBCoFire) announces the launch of its first Arson Canine (K-9) Program in over 20 years. Dinty, a 4-year-old black Labrador Retriever, is now part of our elite investigative team.

This Program would not be possible without the partnership of State Farm. The State Farm Arson Dog Training Scholarship funds the \$25,000 estimated cost for acquiring one Arson Dog and sending one handler through the Arson Dog Program training and certification class in Concord, New Hampshire.

Dinty and his handler Fire Investigator Shawn Reiss recently returned from a 4-week training on the East coast; going through 200 hours of intense training led by the highly accredited Paul Gallagher, Owner and Head Trainer of Maine Specialty Dogs. Dinty is currently the only arson canine in San Bernardino County and one of five state-wide.

“SBCoFire investigators conducted 755 (FY19/20) fire investigations last year. Programs such as this are important tools in solving arson crimes and getting arsonists off the streets,” stated Fire Chief Dan Munsey. “Only departments selected by State Farm are invited to participate in their Arson Dog Program and we are honored to be one of them. We look forward to our continued partnership with State Farm and expanding our Arson Canine Program.”

According to the National Fire Protection Association, an estimated 280,000 intentional fires are reported to U.S. fire departments each year, with associated annual losses of 420 civilian deaths, 1,360 civilian injuries, and \$1.3 billion in direct property damage. The actual number of arson fires and the amount of property damage is likely much higher, as arson is an underreported crime. Arson dogs played a crucial role in determining the cause of many of these fires.

Arson dogs are accelerant detection canines, highly trained to sniff out minute traces of accelerants/ignitable liquids (gasoline, lighter fluid, etc.); crucial evidence at fire scenes, identifying the cause of the fire, assisting in cold crime cases, and uncovering potential evidence in arsons and homicides. To remain compliant and accredited, each handler and K-9 must complete a 2-day recertification class each year to confirm that the handler and canine are working together as a team and meeting standards of training.

“Arson canines are an invaluable resource in arson investigations. Their senses are extraordinary, capable of hitting on a drop of accelerant and can detect flammable liquids over 100 times more accurately than electronic gas detectors,” stated Fire Marshal Mike Horton. “Dinty will be instrumental in helping investigators locate evidence that may assist in the identity and conviction of an arsonist.”

Dinty works and lives with his handler. The Arson Canine Program is a five-year commitment and comes with an annual cost estimated at \$16,000.

Fires and arsonists know no jurisdictional boundary and affects us all. SBCoFire is eager to share our new resource and look forward to assisting our fellow fire and law enforcement agencies regionally.

Fire Investigator Shawn Reiss said, “Dinty and I are ready to use the training we have received to assist with solving these hideous and deadly crimes. We are also looking forward to getting involved in community outreach programs that focus on fire prevention and safety.”

State Farm Insurance established the Arson Dog Program in 1993 to award scholarships for assistance with the problem of arson in our society. As provided by State Farm, Arson Dogs are an invaluable tool for fire and law enforcement officials to combat the costly and deadly crime of arson. Each year, billions of dollars in property and hundreds of lives are lost as a result of intentionally set fires. Since inception, the State Farm Arson Dog Program has placed more than 425 dogs in 46 states, three Canadian provinces, and the District of Columbia. All accelerant detection canine teams are trained by Maine Specialty Dogs and certified by the Maine State Police.

The Investigation Unit for the SBCoFD Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM), which is comprised of seven Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) qualified individuals, is a highly recognized regional investigations unit within the State of California. Other jurisdictions within the State request information on how the unit operates to model their units similarly. Among many of their responsibilities, the OFM Investigation Unit investigates the cause and origin of fires occurring within their jurisdiction, as well as other criminal and civil investigations.

<http://highdesertdaily.com/2021/05/arson-k-9-joins-fire-investigation-team/>