



NEWS



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Fire That Tore Through Upland Apartments Caused By Soldering Work On Bathroom's Copper Pipes

CBSLA Staff, KCAL 9

Posted: May 21, 2021



UPLAND (CBSLA) — The soldering of copper pipes in a bathroom sparked the devastating fire that damaged 51 apartment units in Upland earlier this month, officials announced this week.

A three-alarm fire ripped through an apartment complex in the 900 block of West 7th Street on May 4, scorching at least 51 units and displacing dozens of families. One firefighter was hospitalized with a heat-related injury, and more than one pet died in the flames.

According to **San Bernardino County fire** Battalion Chief Mike McClintock, the cause of the fire started due to copper pipes being soldered in a second-story apartment bathroom.

“After soldering pipes in a bathroom, multiple residents and the repair person smelled and saw smoke from the attic space,” McClintock’s statement said. “They immediately called 911 and located a nearby fire extinguisher, attempting to suppress the fire. Unfortunately, the fire had already extended up the wall and into the attic space.”

Windy conditions fanned the flames, which spread through the building’s insulation, exposed lumber, and other combustible items in the common attic space, McClintock said.

Blazes caused by torches used by plumbers to solder metal pipes are actually among the top 10 causes of residential fires every year, according to the National Fire Prevention Association. McClintock says plumbers and repair workers should always use flame protector cloth or steel plates to protect flammable material near soldering sites, keep a bucket of water, spray can or wet rag nearby, and have a working and recently-inspected fire extinguisher on hand.

<https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2021/05/21/fire-upland-apartments-caused-soldering-work-bathroom-copper-pipes/>

CA Department to Hire More FFs; Plans to Reopen Station

Martin Estacio, Daily Press, Victorville, Calif.

Posted: May 21, 2021



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 last week 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.firehouse.com/stations/news/21223909/ca-department-to-hire-more-firefighters-plans-to-reopen-station>

1 killed, 1 airlifted after vehicle crashes into pole on Highway 395

Staff, Victor Valley News Group

Posted: May 23 2021



ADELANTO, Calif. (VVNG.com) — The California Highway Patrol is investigating a crash on Highway 395 that left one person dead and another critically injured Sunday.

It happened at about 10:17 am, along the 21300 block of US-395, north of Colusa Road, and involved a silver four-door sedan.

According to a witness, the vehicle was traveling southbound and passing in the dirt at a high rate of speed moments before seeing a large dust cloud. Good Samaritans ran to help the two occupants described as a male driver and a female passenger.

San Bernardino County Fire responded and requested a helicopter to land at the scene. The female passenger inside the vehicle was pronounced deceased.

Helicopter Reach 13 landed nearby and airlifted the driver to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

The Victorville CHP Station is investigating the crash and anyone with information is asked to call 760-241-1186.

<https://www.vvng.com/1-killed-1-airlifted-after-vehicle-crashes-into-pole-on-highway-395/>