



# NEWS



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## 8-year-old San Bernardino boy killed by illegal firework on July 4

Brian Rokos, The Press Enterprise

Posted: July 16, 2021



San Bernardino County fire marshal and deputy fire warden Mike Horton speaks in front of a display of illegal fireworks during a news conference in Fontana on April 8, 2021. San Bernardino police say an illegal, mortar-style firework struck and killed an 8-year-old boy on July 4

Public safety officials' worst fears were realized on the Fourth of July when an 8-year-old boy was struck and killed by an illegal firework that police say was accidentally launched at him in San Bernardino.

The catastrophe happened at a block party on South San Carlo Avenue, San Bernardino police Capt. Adam Affrunti said on Thursday, July 15. Someone lit a mortar-style firework and placed it in a launching tube. The tube somehow tipped over, and when the mortar rocketed out of the tube, it struck the boy in the chest, Affrunti said.

Those present took the boy to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton, where he died, Affrunti said. Police did not learn of the injury until the hospital called, he said. Police went to the area of the block party, but by the time they arrived, there was no trace of anyone — or the illegal fireworks, Affrunti said.

The boy's name has not been released.

No one has been arrested. Police are investigating the circumstances and will forward a report to the District Attorney's Office, which will decide whether to file charges.

In the run-up to Independence Day, officials, fearing injuries and fires, had pleaded with the public not to shoot off illegal fireworks and to report those who do. Officials had confiscated tens of thousands of pounds of illegal fireworks such as the type that killed the boy. Those fireworks are often purchased legally in other states and smuggled into California, sometimes by criminal street gangs.

"These are the types of tragedies we try to prevent," said Tracey Martinez, a spokeswoman for the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**. "Our hearts go out to the family. The danger of illegal fireworks is tremendous and even safe-and-sane fireworks are very dangerous and unfortunately, this is a tragedy that has resulted from that."

There was no public announcement of the boy's death until Affrunti noted it Thursday during an interview about a different death investigation.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2021/07/16/8-year-old-san-bernardino-boy-killed-by-illegal-firework-on-july-4/>

## **Crews of 40-King-5 & 40-King-6 rescue six dehydrated hikers in Deep Creek Hot Springs**

**James Folmer, Redlands Community News**

Posted: July 18, 2021

Two sheriff's helicopter crews rescued six dehydrated hikers in 100-degree heat Saturday afternoon in the Deep Creek Hot Springs in Twin Peaks. One was very ill, said a press release,

At 3:05 p.m. July 17, San Bernardino County Fire dispatch received a 911 call from a family of hikers from Lancaster requesting help.

"They stated they were a group of six hikers in the Deep Creek Hot Springs area off Highway 173 and they could no longer continue hiking due to dehydration, said a press release. "Temperatures were hovering at 100 degrees Fahrenheit."

**San Bernardino County Fire** and Twin Peaks deputies responded to a designated landing zone off Highway 173 and coordinated with crews from the San Bernardino County. 40-King-6 was already in the area performing an unrelated hoist rescue of another dehydrated hiker on the Apple Valley side of Deep Creek.

Once they completed the rescue, the crew of 40-King-6 began searching for the group of hikers. After locating them on a steep mountainside, a medic was hoisted down to the hikers. The medic assessed them and determined a hoist rescue would be necessary to get them to medical personnel.

The hikers were dehydrated, and the terrain was too rugged for a helicopter to land. If rescued by ground, the excessive temperatures and distance from the highway would jeopardize the safety of ground rescuers.

"The crew of 40-King-5 responded from Apple Valley and assisted 40-King-6 with hoisting the hikers to safety," said the release. "The medic on the ground was able to secure all hikers into rescue harnesses to be hoisted one at a time.

"Between both helicopter crews, all six hikers were hoisted out and transported to medical personnel waiting at the landing zone."

The hikers were Gabriel Garcia, 20; Erica Carter, 20; Michael Carter, 25; Sean Carter, 26; Sakae Carter, 56; and Bryan Carter, 50, all residents of the Lancaster area of Los Angeles County.

### **40-King-6 Crew**

Pilot: Cpl Ryan Pepler

Hoist operator: Reserve Deputy Stephen Miller

Medic: Nurse Wendy Kruger

### **40-King-5 Crew**

Pilot: Deputy Doug Brimmer

Hoist operator: Cpl Chris Mejia

[https://www.redlandscommunitynews.com/news/public\\_safety/crews-of-40-king-5-40-king-6-rescue-six-dehydrated-hikers-in-deep-creek/article\\_9c91cbb2-e7f1-11eb-8300-6f5131285d1f.html](https://www.redlandscommunitynews.com/news/public_safety/crews-of-40-king-5-40-king-6-rescue-six-dehydrated-hikers-in-deep-creek/article_9c91cbb2-e7f1-11eb-8300-6f5131285d1f.html)

## Boats near those that burned on Lake Arrowhead were vandalized and burglarized, officials say

Brian Rokos, The Press Enterprise

Posted: July 17, 2021



Firefighters extinguish flames that destroyed seven boats on Lake Arrowhead early July 16, 2021. Officials said other boats nearby were found vandalized and burglarized. (Courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire Department)

Officials investigating the fire that destroyed seven boats and damaged five others on Lake Arrowhead on Friday have discovered additional boats that were vandalized and burglarized, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** said on Saturday, July 17.

The 4 a.m. fire was “suspicious” and caused an estimated \$2 million in damage to boats and docks, Battalion Chief Mike McClintock said. Firefighters prevented some 30 boats, as well as several docks, from burning.

Victimized owners who were not affected by the fire were asked to report missing property to the Sheriff’s Department’s Twin Peaks station at 909-336-0600.

Anyone with information on the fire’s cause was urged to call arson investigators at 909-386-8400. Anonymous tips are accepted on the WeTip website at wetip.com as well as its hotline at 800-782-7463 and an arson tip line at 800-472-7766.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2021/07/17/boats-near-those-that-burned-on-lake-arrowhead-were-vandalized-and-burglarized-officials-say/>

## **Downtown Needles, CA: Unresponsive man found laying along a hillside off West Broadway just west of L Street.**

Zachary Lopez, Zach News

Posted: July 18, 2021



Downtown Needles, California: An unresponsive man was found laying along a hillside off West Broadway just west of L Street.

ZachNews was alerted of the breaking news incident by Chris Higa at 7:04 p.m. PT on Sunday, July 18th, 2021.

Reports that good samaritans and a deputy from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department's Colorado River Station rushing over to the unresponsive man

ZachNews Photojournalist Zachary Lopez arrived on scene as **San Bernardino County Fire** Department's Station 32 as well as the unresponsive man bring placed onto a stretcher and into the ambulance from Baker Emergency Medical Service.

The unresponsive man was transported by ambulance from Baker Emergency Medical Service to the Colorado River Medical Center in Needles, California where his condition is unknown.

West Broadway just west of L Street was closed during the incident but has since been reopened.

<https://zachnews.net/2021/07/18/breaking-news-downtown-needles-ca-unresponsive-man-found-laying-along-a-hillside-off-west-broadway-just-west-of-l-street/>

## New \$12 million fire station to be built in Yucca Valley with funding from California budget

Martin Estacio, Victorville Daily Press

Posted: July 17, 2021



One of two San Bernardino County Fire Department stations in Yucca Valley

The Town of Yucca Valley will get a new fire station thanks to funding from a recently approved state budget bill.

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed the senate bill Monday, which appropriates \$12 million to the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department to build the facility.

3rd District County Supervisor Dawn Rowe praised the decision earlier this week and said the “funds wouldn’t have materialized without the efforts of Assembly Member Chad Mayes.”

“This outcome is a great example of local government working in unison with our state representatives to ensure rural residents receive the services they need and deserve,” she said in a statement Tuesday.

Mayes, whose 42nd District encompasses the town of nearly 22,000, requested the funds after hearing concerns about public safety from local residents and others, according to Rowe’s office.

“For years, Yucca Valley was one of the best kept secrets in Southern California, but the growth of tourism in the region has resulted in an increase in traffic accidents along Highway 62 and calls for emergency services,” said Mayes, a former Yucca Valley councilman.

“This new fire station is a significant investment in the future of Yucca Valley and provides the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District with the resources they need to serve our desert community,” he added.

From 2016 through 2020, state crash data shows that while total collisions have decreased slightly along Twentynine Palms Highway, the number of fatal crashes have increased.

In 2020, five people were killed and 31 injured in 23 collisions, while in 2016, no one was killed and 38 people were injured in 26 collisions.

Yucca Valley has two fire stations, one on Twentynine Palms Highway and one on Aberdeen Drive, which is situated about 7 ½ miles north of the first.

Officials said details concerning the future location of the new station and when it might be built have not yet been determined.

The fire department did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

According to the budget bill, the state funding “shall not be disbursed for any project prior to September 30, 2021.”

“The District will be working closely with our partners in Yucca Valley over the course of the next few months to identify a suitable location that maximizes the benefit of this new fire station, which will include reduced response times for outlying communities like Landers,” County Fire Chief Dan Munsey said

The budget bill signed by the governor also includes the \$100 billion California Comeback Plan, which will provide stimulus checks for most state residents later this year.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/story/news/fire/2021/07/17/new-12-million-fire-station-built-yucca-valley/8003597002/>

## Fire That Caused \$2 Million In Damage to Lake Arrowhead Boats, Docks Deemed Suspicious

Staff Writer, CBSLA

Posted: July 19, 2021



LAKE ARROWHEAD (CBSLA) — An estimated \$2 million in damage was caused by a suspicious fire that destroyed and damaged several boats docked in Lake Arrowhead, according to authorities.

An investigation continues Monday into the fire that destroyed seven boats, and damaged five others and the dock at Lake Arrowhead on Friday morning. **San Bernardino County Fire** Battalion Chief Mike McClintock says the fire has been deemed suspicious in nature.

In addition, during the investigation into the fire, authorities found several of the boats had been burglarized and vandalized nearby.

However, the coordinated fire attack did manage to save more than 30 other boats and multiple docks from suffering any damage, McClintock said.

County officials asked for the public's help for information about both the arson fire and the boat burglaries and vandalism.

Boat owners whose vessels were not destroyed or damaged by the fire but had been vandalized or burglarized can call the San Bernardino County sheriff's Twin Peaks Station at (909) 336-0600 to report stolen items. Anyone with information about the fire can contact the Fire Investigation Unit at (909) 386-8400 or make an anonymous tip to We Tip at (800) 472-7766. A reward for information of up to \$1,000 is available for tips leading to an arrest in this arson fire.

<https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2021/07/19/fire-caused-2-million-damage-lake-arrowhead-boats-docks-deemed-suspicious/>