



NEWS



News Headlines 08/18/2021

- Sheriff's deputy injured when gunfire rings out during traffic stop in San Bernardino
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Sheriff's deputy injured when gunfire rings out during traffic stop in San Bernardino

Eric Licas and Quinn Wilson, The SUN

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San Bernardino County Sheriff's deputies and detectives investigate the scene where a deputy was shot by a suspect during a traffic stop in an unincorporated area of San Bernardino on Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2021. (Photo by Terry Pierson, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG)

A San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department deputy was injured after gunfire rang out during traffic stop in San Bernardino on Tuesday, Aug. 17.

The deputy was alone in his patrol vehicle passing through the city of San Bernardino at 4:14 p.m. when he announced that he was going to perform a traffic stop to dispatchers, Sheriff Shannon Dicus said. He was back on the radio moments later to report shots fired, and that he had been hit.

It happened in the area of Bobbett Drive and Olive Street, south of Baseline Street and east of Waterman Avenue, **San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesman Eric Sherwin said. Firefighters and paramedics were summoned to the area following reports of a shooting and vehicle fire.

Aerial footage from the scene of the shooting showed a burned San Bernardino County Sheriff's SUV with a charred and blackened front end and shattered windows. It wasn't immediately known what caused the vehicle fire.

The deputy suffered superficial injuries to his face and had shrapnel in his arm, Dicus said.

It was not immediately clear if he was struck by gunfire or injured some other way.

It's believed the suspect used a rifle, said San Bernardino Police Lt. Michele Mahan.

Fellow deputies arrived before paramedics and drove the wounded deputy in a patrol vehicle to a nearby hospital, Mahan said. He was then transferred to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton, where numerous Sheriff's Department staff were seen waiting outside of the hospital's emergency room.

No arrest was immediately announced in connection with the shooting. San Bernardino police were investigating the attack, and urged people to avoid the area Tuesday evening.

A resident who identified himself as "Mike" was standing with his family outside of the area blocked off from police Tuesday. He said the shooting took place around the corner from his home on a residential side street.

He heard gunshots that he thought sounded as if they were fired from a rifle. Moments later, police vehicles were zooming up and down the street.

LoudLabs news obtained video from a security camera near the scene of the shooting that shows a white car speeding down the street and apparently being pursued by a deputy. The car then makes a right turn. As the Sheriff's SUV rounds the corner and stops, between 30-50 apparent gunshots can be heard in rapid succession. It wasn't immediately known if the deputy got off any shots.

San Bernardino Police did not confirm whether the white car in the video is the suspect vehicle. However, they identified the suspect vehicle as a white BMW that was found at an apartment complex on Date Street in San Bernardino.

As of late Tuesday, police did not describe any suspect or suspects.

"It's very traumatizing (to have this happen as a deputy)," Dicus said. "It's certainly not something you expect."

The neighborhood surrounding the shooting is not known as a high-crime area, Mahan said. However, shootings in the county have become more common, Dicus said.

"In terms of firearms, we're seeing more and more incidents where we encounter suspects with firearms," Dicus said.

The injured deputy was in good spirits while recovering and surrounded by family Tuesday evening, Dicus said. The sheriff described him as a 27-year-old man who has been with the department for about four years.

"Our hope is that when the suspect is encountered, we have good dialogue and the suspect surrenders," Dicus said.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2021/08/17/sheriffs-deputy-shot-and-injured-during-traffic-stop-in-san-bernardino/>

SBC firefighters engaged in wildfire battles

Staff Writer, Mohave Valley Daily News

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NEEDLES — San Bernardino County fire crews have been or remain active in efforts to battle at least four of the more than 100 wildfires burning across the western United States, including the largest single fire in California history.

San Bernardino County Fire Department personnel are among more than 6,000 firefighters and other emergency services providers at the Dixie Fire burning in the Sierra Nevada Mountains west of the California-Nevada border.

As of Friday, the fire was charted at nearly 520,000 acres — 800 square miles — 25 times the size of the City of Needles.

No fatalities or injuries have been confirmed but more than 1,000 buildings, including more than 550 homes, have been destroyed.

It began July 13 and is burning in four California counties in the Plumas National Forest, the Lassen National Forest and the Lassen Volcanic National Park.

One SBCFD crew spent 14 days at the fire but has since returned home. The crew worked on perimeter control, firing operations and structure defense.

Two crews from SBCFD recently mobilized as part of a 38-person team to continue some of those operations.

Two department personnel, Battalion Chiefs Steve Tracy and Sean Solis, are leading a 22-person multi-agency strike team that began a 21-day deployment on July 20.

The team includes staff from five county-based fire stations.

Battalion Chief Anthony Rapoza is serving as division group supervisor at the McFarland Fire in Shasta County, California.

As of Friday, the fire was at 40,684 acres (about 64 square miles) and was 57% contained. The fire in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest northwest of Sacramento, near Redding, began July 29 and is believed to have been ignited by lightning.

Diane Mendez Cantu of the SBCFD is deployed as an equipment time recorder for the McFarland Fire.

SBCFD personnel also are involved with firefighting efforts in Montana, at the Hay Creek Fire in the Flathead National Forest in the northern part of the state and the Granite Pass Complex Fire in Lolo National Forest southwest of Missoula.

Two members of the Bullhead City Fire Department. Capt. Jeff Jackson and Firefighter Cesar Guzman, also are involved in operations at the Dixie Fire.

According to the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, there are more than 105 large fires or complexes of smaller fires in 13 Western states and more than 160 during 2021.

There have been 32 in California, 30 in Montana, 23 in both Idaho and Washington, 22 in Oregon and 19 in Arizona. Montana has 24 active fires while Idaho had 21 and Oregon and Washington each have 16, according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

According to CalFire, the state's Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention, there were 11 large wildfires active in California as of Friday; the fires collectively have burned through 982,000 acres, more than 1,500 square miles.

In addition to chewing through more than forests, prairies and wetlands — including some in ecologically sensitive areas — the fires have destroyed hundreds of homes and affected the air quality in many Western states, potentially affecting millions of people.

According to NIFC, more than 25,000 firefighters and support personnel were engaged in firefighting efforts as of Friday.

Widespread drought through the West has increased the risk of wildfires this year, according to fire service personnel.

“Drought is an underlying condition that enhances the risk of wildfires,” the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said in an assessment of the wildfire season. “High temperatures, low humidity, wind, and lightning from dry thunderstorms are weather conditions that can help spark a blaze — as can human activities.”

<https://mohavedailynews.com/news/133711/sbc-firefighters-engaged-in-wildfire-battles/>