



NEWS



News Headlines 08/26/2021

- South Fire forces evacuations, threatens homes and livestock in Lytle Creek as smoke and ash hit Victor Valley
- Apple Valley man killed while trying to cross Bear Valley Road near Victor Valley College

South Fire forces evacuations, threatens homes and livestock in Lytle Creek as smoke and ash hit Victor Valley

Martin Estacio, Victorville Daily Press

Posted: August 25, 2021



Figure 1 The South Fire burns in the Lytle Creek area north of Fontana on Wednesday, August 25, 2021. Courtesy of Cheryl Estacio

A fire burning in the Lytle Creek area threatened at least 100 homes as it continued to burn rapidly along the canyon Wednesday afternoon.

CalFire tweeted at 8:17 p.m. that the South Fire had burned 500 acres. The agency listed containment at 0% on its incident website as the blaze moved north along Lytle Creek Road, east of Sierra Avenue.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department issued an evacuation order for people living on Lytle Creek Road — south of the Lytle Creek Ranger Station — west of Sierra Avenue, north of Interstate 15 and east of Duncan Canyon Road "to the foothills."

Residents living in Lytle Creek north of the ranger station were asked to shelter in place.

An evacuation order was also put in place for homes north of Glen Helen Parkway, east of Sierra Avenue and Lytle Creek Road and west of I-15.

Officials set up an evacuation center at the Jessie Turner Health and Fitness Community Center, 15556 Summit Avenue in Fontana. The Devore Animal Shelter, 19777 Shelter Way, is accepting evacuated large animals, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

The northbound and southbound I-15 on and off ramps at Sierra Avenue were closed Wednesday due to the fire, according to Caltrans.

U.S. Forest Service spokesperson Zach Behrens could not say whether any structures had been destroyed. News coverage showed several buildings burning, however.

The blaze could also be seen burning around livestock

The South Fire also impacted air quality in the Victor Valley, with smoke and ash reported as far north as Adelanto.

Martial Haprov, spokesperson for the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, said the advisory the agency issued Tuesday had been extended through Thursday, but he added that the extension came before the South Fire broke out.

Later, a tweet from the agency read, "In addition to our existing advisory, some local communities are experiencing heavy smoke in areas and there are reports of falling ash. Appears to be from #SOUTHFire in Fontana, pushed by strong winds into our region. Remember, if you smell #smoke, you're breathing smoke!"

MDAQMD said people should avoid all vigorous outdoor and indoor activity in any area impacted by poor air quality. Those with respiratory illnesses or heart disease, older adults and children should remain indoors, and windows and doors should be closed, the agency said.

Reports of the fire starting in the area of Lytle Creek Road and Sierra Avenue came in shortly after 1:30 p.m., according to Cal Fire Capt. Bennet Milloy.

Milloy said the fire was threatening homes, commercial buildings and electric transmission lines in the area.

A witness passing the fire on Interstate 15 said she saw power lines "exploding."

According to the National Weather Service, winds in the area Wednesday night were expected to gust as high as 25 mph and become northeast winds after midnight.

Behrens said a "couple hundred" firefighters and several aircraft were battling the South Fire.

Milloy said the incident commander for the fire requested that no aircraft be diverted due to the threat to people and structures.

Firefighters from CalFire, San Bernardino County Fire and the San Bernardino National Forest are working to extinguish the blaze.

The cause of the fire is under investigation, according to Behrens.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/story/news/fire/2021/08/25/south-fire-burning-north-fontana-lytle-creek-threatens-homes/5594972001/>

Apple Valley man killed while trying to cross Bear Valley Road near Victor Valley College

Rene Ray De La Cruz, Victorville Daily Press

Posted: August 25, 2021



Authorities closed a half-mile stretch of Bear Valley Road for several hours Wednesday after a man died when a vehicle hit him as he tried to cross the roadway near Victor Valley College.

Sheriff's deputies identified the man as Frank Harvey Anagnos, 61, of Apple Valley. He was found lying near the intersection of Bear Valley and Mojave Fish Hatchery roads after the collision.

Deputies from the Victorville, Hesperia and Apple Valley sheriff's stations arrived on scene at 6:38 p.m. Wednesday.

San Bernardino County Fire Department personnel joined the deputies. The group found Anagnos unresponsive on the north shoulder of Bear Valley Road.

Despite life-saving measures, Anagnos died at the scene, according to sheriff's officials.

An unidentified witness told deputies Anagnos stood in the road's center divider before the collision. Anagnos then tried to cross the road and was struck by a vehicle.

The unidentified driver, as well as the witness, stayed at the scene and cooperated with the investigation.

Authorities kept Bear Valley Road closed between Jess Ranch Parkway in Apple Valley and Mojave Fish Hatchery Road in Victorville for roughly two hours for the investigation.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department to contact Deputy T. Wetzel at the Victorville station at 760-241-2911.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/story/news/accident/2021/08/25/apple-valley-man-killed-while-trying-cross-bear-valley-road-near-victor-valley-college/5596493001/>