



NEWS



News Headlines 11/23-29/2021

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Red Cross Disaster Action Team provides essential services throughout county; volunteers needed

Ricardo Tomboc, INLAND EMPIRE COMMUNITY NEWS
Posted: November 23, 2021



Photo Ricardo Tomboc: Disaster Action Team members assess fire damage caused to a 64-unit apartment complex last month. From left: DAT Captain John Hillman, Disaster Responder Robin Pederson, DAT Captain Dr. Ken Witte, and Disaster Responder Kent Behrends.

On Sunday, October 31 a fire broke out in a 64-unit apartment complex. The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department immediately responded. The fire department was able to confine the damage to a 4-carport area of the building. The fire destroyed three vehicles and severely damaged the building around and above the carports. The four occupied apartments immediately above the carports suffered damage and were “red tagged” by the fire department, which means that they were uninhabitable. The main water lines to the building that ran across the carports were destroyed affecting the entire 64-unit complex.

The **San Bernardino Fire** Department requested the American Red Cross to assist residents of the complex. A crew of four Disaster Action Team (DAT) members arrived within an hour of the call. DAT members assessed the damage and worked with the fire department and the owners of the building, it was determined that plumbers would be able to replace the water pipes and restore the water service by the end of the day. However, the four families that were displaced needed immediate assistance with housing and other basic needs while still at the scene of the fire. During disasters such as apartment fires, Red Cross works with individuals displaced to help them on their path to recovery and volunteers reach out to provide comfort kits that contain food, drink, hygiene items, and accessibility to snacks and water for immediate needs. DAT members were able to immediately assist each of the displaced families.

This is just one DAT call for service, out of the almost 200 calls for service in **San Bernardino County** in a year. The Red Cross DAT members are all volunteers and are placed on standby for calls for service one week at a time, 24/7! However, the east side of **San Bernardino County** has experienced a major shortage of DAT volunteers. More trained volunteers are needed to help respond to incidents in our community.

In emergencies such as wildfires or flooding or other incidents that require community members to evacuate, shelters are open at venues where immediate access is available, such as schools and community centers. An emergency shelter requires multiple shifts of volunteers to open and operate, and that is where community members can help.

Existing volunteers like Dr. Ken Witte, who trained as a Disaster Action Team Captain and lives in Lake Arrowhead, respond to various calls for service at all hours of the day and night. Where normally he would take a week off and on-call for the next, Dr. Witte has been on-call 24/7 for over a year! And if anybody knows Dr. Witte, they will know that he loves it – he is a people person with a heart of gold. Dr. Witte is a retired educator and school principal and volunteers for several other organizations as well.

John Hillman from **San Bernardino** has been a DAT Captain but is taking a short leave after serving the **San Bernardino** community for decades but will still respond when the need is dire. John is still involved in disaster preparedness education, disaster emergency sheltering, and extremely active in his community. Robin Pederson from Rialto is assigned to the west side of **San Bernardino County** but has responded to most of the east side calls with Dr. Witte due to the volunteer shortage. Kent Behrends is a DAT member who lives in Chino and is assigned to the west side of San Bernardino County but will also respond to where the need is.

Red Cross volunteers are needed. Training is free and available in an online and/or in a classroom setting. The exciting part is that you can be kept busy as much as you like. Local Red Cross volunteers can be deployed across the state and/or the country to assist with various disasters. Transportation, lodging, and meals are all provided. Even if you are not interested in being deployed to a disaster, there are several other areas in which one can volunteer such as biomedical services at blood drives or deploy virtually assisting victims across the nation without ever having to leave your home. For more information, go to www.redcross.org/volunteer.

<https://iecn.com/red%E2%80%88cross-disaster-action-team-provides-essential-services-throughout-county-volunteers-needed/>

After Two people are injured during armed robbery at store in Fontana; suspects flee
Staff Writer, FONTANA HERALD NEWS

Posted: November 24, 2021



Police investigate an armed robbery at a liquor store in Fontana. (Contributed photo by Gilbert Gonzalez)

Two people were injured during an armed robbery in Fontana on Nov. 23, according to the Fontana Police Department.

At about 10 p.m., three male suspects entered a liquor store in the 17600 block of **San Bernardino** Avenue. They were armed and wearing ski masks, said Public Information Officer Daniel Romero.

The suspects confronted the clerk and a customer, demanding money. Both the clerk and the customer complied and gave the suspects cash, but an altercation took place.

One suspect shot the clerk with a BB gun that both victims initially thought was a real gun. The customer was pistol-whipped, which caused a laceration to the head. The victims were treated at the scene by San Bernardino County Fire/Medics.

The suspects fled the scene in a vehicle.

Officers are actively investigating this case.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/two-people-are-injured-during-armed-robbery-at-store-in-fontana-suspects-flee/article_24f9b7ec-4d89-11ec-919f-4bbe127f2251.html

North Etiwanda Preserve will be closed until Saturday, Nov. 27 due to increased fire danger

Staff Writer, FONTANA HERALD NEWS

Posted: November 24, 2021

No Picture

Due to increased fire danger, the Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District and the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department have ordered a joint closure of the North Etiwanda Preserve.

The closure will be in effect until 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 27. A violation of the closure order is punishable by a fine of \$1,000.

The closure is necessary to provide for public safety and prevent the ignition of a wildfire that can damage or destroy the natural resources of the region and the historically significant areas within the North Etiwanda Preserve., authorities said.

“The North Etiwanda Preserve is a local treasure and a historically important place within our community,” said Rancho Cucamonga Fire Marshal Rob Ball.

For more information, contact the Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District at (909) 477-2770.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/north-etiwanda-preserve-will-be-closed-until-saturday-nov-27-due-to-increased-fire-danger/article_56e4ffac-4d8c-11ec-a62b-b79aa8bd98a2.html

Thousands lose power in Southern California because of wildfire worries

Brian Rokos, THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Posted: November 24, 2021 AT 12:12 p.m.



Wind whips a flag in Riverside on Nov. 24, 2021. Strong winds were elevating the threat of rapidly spreading wildfires through the Thanksgiving holiday.

Gusting Santa Ana winds and dry conditions returned to Southern California on Wednesday night, Nov. 24, prompting forecasters to issue a warning of critical wildfire conditions that will last into Friday, with a reminder for residents in some areas to be ready to evacuate if necessary. Some residents lost electricity service as circuits were shut down to prevent fires.

The warning took effect at 10 p.m. Wednesday and will continue to 6 p.m. Friday in the Riverside County valleys and mountains, the San Geronio Pass near Banning, inland Orange County, the Santa Monica Mountains Recreational Area, Los Angeles County mountains, the Angeles National Forest, the coastal area stretching into downtown Los Angeles, and the Santa Clarita, San Fernando and San Gabriel valleys. “Northeast winds will increase starting just after sunrise on Wednesday then peak late Wednesday afternoon through Thursday morning,” the National Weather Service said. “Winds will gradually weaken through Saturday but will remain gusty at times. Peak wind gusts between 35 and 55 mph are expected, with isolated gusts to between 60 and 70 mph.”

Forecasters said humidity levels would plummet, falling as low as 2% to 8% by Thursday, creating dry conditions that can dramatically elevate the risk of dangerous wildfires spreading rapidly.

In Orange County, forecasters said inland areas could see gusts of 40 to 50 mph, occasionally reaching 60 mph in mountain canyons. Humidity levels, meanwhile, could fall to about 5% on Thursday, according to the weather service.

“Emergency response officials throughout Los Angeles County will stand ready to defend lives and property,” said Kevin McGowan, the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management director. “But, we also need collaboration from our whole community to stay safe as a region. You can do your part by staying informed and being ready to evacuate at a moment’s notice, especially if you live in canyon, mountain or foothill communities.”

The North Etiwanda Preserve in Rancho Cucamonga was temporarily closed due to critical fire weather conditions Wednesday through Saturday, Nov. 27, at 6:30 a.m., the Rancho Cucamonga and **San Bernardino County** fire departments said.

As of Wednesday evening, Southern California Edison had turned off power to more than 17,000 customers as a part of public safety power shutoffs in an effort to mitigate wildfire risks. Just before 11 p.m., 6,882 customers were without power in Los Angeles County, 3,412 customers in Riverside County, 4,929 customers in **San Bernardino County** and 2,477 customers in Orange County.

[Click here for a map showing areas affected, or potentially affected, by public safety power shutoffs.](#)

Residents were urged to keep the following emergency preparedness tips in mind:

- Keep a mobile phone and other devices charged with the ringer on so you can receive and hear emergency alerts throughout the night. Have working flashlights for all family members ready and within reach.
- Prepare your family, pets and home for the possibility of evacuation. Park your vehicle facing the street so you don’t have to back out, and in the driveway, to avoid being stuck behind an electricity-operated garage door.

- Sign up for emergency notification systems. Identify which system is used by your local law enforcement agency for your neighborhood, at your workplace and other places that you or family members frequent. Monitor news reports and have a battery-operated radio handy so that you can access news if the power goes out.

<https://www.pe.com/2021/11/24/dry-weather-high-winds-on-thanksgiving-day-raise-threat-of-wildfire-spread/>

Firefighters extinguish fire which erupted in Fontana on Nov. 25

Staff Writer, FONTANA HERALD NEWS

Posted: November 26, 2021



A fire erupted at a location in Fontana on Nov. 25. (Contributed photo by SoCal News Outlet)

Firefighters extinguished a fire which erupted at a commercial structure in Fontana on Nov. 25, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

The blaze originated at 15690 Foothill Boulevard at 10:31 a.m.

Firefighters quickly arrived to find an exterior fire immediately threatening a commercial occupancy, said Battalion Chief Mike McClintock.

Arriving crews aggressively attacked the fire, knocking it down before it extended to the business.

There were no reports of injuries.

A fire investigator responded to the location to try to determine the cause of the fire.

The Fire Department has been very concerned about the possibility of fires due to the strong winds which have blasted the area recently.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/firefighters-extinguish-fire-which-erupted-in-fontana-on-nov-25/article_572cb3dc-4ef5-11ec-81af-df4b9fa7c60d.html

A six-hour hike, remains of fatal plane crash are found in the maintains

Federal Aviation Administration, REDLANDS COMMUNITY NEWS

Posted: November 29, 2021 at 7:37 a.m.

No Picture

A pilot and his plane that was reported missing on Saturday, Nov. 20, were found in the mountains 40 miles east of Big Bear City on Sunday, Nov. 21, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

The pilot, the only occupant, was a lone fatality in the wreck of the Glassair III N129KT, said FAA spokesman Ian Gregor. The National Transportation and Safety Board (NTSB) is investigating.

The **San Bernardino County fire** and sheriff's department responded. Search and rescue teams hiked for six hours to find the wreckage, said Gloria Huerta of the Sheriff's Department. A sheriff's aviation unit hoisted down personnel with the NTSB, Fire Department and law enforcement.

The remains were delivered to the **San Bernardino County** coroner's office on Tuesday, Nov. 23. As of Monday morning the body had not been identified.

https://www.redlandscommunitynews.com/news/public_safety/after-a-six-hour-hike-remains-of-fatal-plane-crash-are-found-in-the-maintains/article_c7e5d452-5128-11ec-af60-0b98e10988fc.html