



# NEWS



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## Two families are displaced as fire burns home in Fontana

Staff Writer, FONTANA HERALD NEWS

Posted: Dec 23, 2021



Firefighters responds to a house fire in Fontana. (Contributed photo by SoCal News Outlet)

Two families were displaced when a fire caused major damage to a home in Fontana on Dec. 22, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department.

At 8:26 a.m., crews were dispatched to a reported structure fire in the 17300 block of Ramona Avenue, said Battalion Chief Mike McClintock.

Crews arrived in four minutes to find smoke showing from a rear home on the property. Crews initiated an offensive fire attack, working to control the fire and find any potential victims. The fire was ultimately knocked down in about 30 minutes. The families were able to escape from the blaze, but a deceased dog was later found inside the house.

The Red Cross was requested to assist with temporary housing assistance. A total of four adults, five children and a dog were displaced. **San Bernardino County Fire** responded with three engines, a truck company, medic squad, ambulance, battalion chief and a fire investigator. Rialto Fire assisted with an engine company.

## New CA Fire Station Comes with \$8.2M Price Tag

By Brian Whitehead, FIREHOUSE MAGAZINE

Posted: Dec 24, 2021



Fire Station 81 will be the eighth fire station in Fontana and will reduce response times in the area to five minutes or less.

Dec. 22—Construction on a new \$8.2 million fire station in northern Fontana is expected to begin in January 2022.

The 13,247-square-foot facility at 16615 Casa Grande Ave., will be designed to accommodate up to eight firefighters and a battalion chief.

Fire Station No. 81 will help the city meet its goal of responding to calls in less than five minutes 90% of the time, city staffers reported last week.

While Fontana contracts with **San Bernardino County fire** for services, council members comprise the Fontana Fire Protection District, which provides direction to the county.

Mayor Acquanetta Warren called the project "a long time coming" Wednesday, Dec. 22.

"It's really needed in that area," she added, "giving us more capacity to make sure we keep people safe and cut down the time it takes to get to people."

Orange-based TELACU Construction was awarded an \$8.2 million contract last week to carry out development.

Work is expected to conclude in approximately eight months.

A handful of new communities have been built in that part of town in recent years. Sierra Lakes Golf Club is a stone's throw from the project site, and a Target distribution center is within walking distance. Several parks are in the vicinity.

Fire Station No. 81 will be Fontana's eighth station, and a ninth is on the horizon.

A two-phased project will bring a training facility and fire station to Cherry and South Highland avenues just south of the 15/210 freeway interchange.

City leaders expect to award a construction contract for that project in a few months.

## Storm strikes Southern California, washing out roads, downing street lights, causing mudslides

By CITY NEWS SERVICE, THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Posted: Dec 24, 2021



David Hunt of Silverado Canyon walks along Grundy Way at the intersection of Water Way in Silverado Canyon, located in eastern Orange County, stepping over rocks and mud that have washed down the mountain following an overnight storm that brought heavy rain to the area, on Friday, December 24, 2021. The December 2020 Bond fire burned much of the the area and left the hills above the canyon barren and vulnerable rock-filled mudslides. (Photo by Mark Rightmire, Orange County Register/SCNG)

By mid-morning Friday, however, the sun had broken through in some parts of Los Angeles County's coast.

But whatever warmth is created was undercut by the biting wind that remained. And patches of blue sky were beset by dark storm clouds, portending the rain that seems likely to drench the region through Christmas weekend.

"Another storm will move through southwest California Christmas day into Sunday morning with MUCH lower snow levels," NWS Los Angeles tweeted Friday. "Several inches of snow are possible above 5000 feet and light snow accumulations are possible over the Grapevine on Interstate 5."

Still, the tempest that tore through the region Thursday night and Friday morning caused plenty of havoc on its own. A mudslide in Silverado Canyon occurred just past 8 p.m. Thursday, not long after Orange County implemented a mandatory evacuation for an estimated 2,116 residents in areas scarred by the Bond fire. The evacuation was lifted at 10 a.m. Friday for Williams and Modjeska canyon and noon for Silverado Canyon.

There were no injuries nor calls for rescues following the landfall, OCFA said. The mudslide, at Silverado Canyon Road and Olive Drive, was more of an access issue for nearby residents than anything else, said Capt. Sean Doran of the Orange County Fire Authority. Around midday, OCFA Capt. Thanh Nguyen said he was not expecting more problems because the storm appeared to be passing from Orange County. But he did say people need to be careful in the Bond fire area

"We're still urging everybody to be very aware," Nguyen said, "because even though it is not raining, the ground has been saturated and there is the potential for mudflows."

Along the Santa Ana River Trail, near MacArthur Boulevard, in Santa Ana, someone fell into the river, Nguyen said. As of 1:30 p.m. firefighters from multiple agencies, including Costa Mesa, Huntington Beach and Newport Beach, were still searching all the way south to Pacific Coast Highway – and OCFA had deployed a drone. The flood watch NWS put into effect in multiple parts of the region, meanwhile, proved prescient.

In Los Angeles County, Caltrans stopped all lanes on the 710 Freeway at Alondra Boulevard, in Compton, for about an hour early Friday because of flooding, according to the California Highway Patrol log.

In Oak Glen, sludge rushed down a canyon, according to a video the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department tweeted. A stretch of Oak Glen and Potatoe roads were under two feet of mud. In its wake, the debris flow left at least one structure caked in mud, another video from that fire agency showed.

A route into the San Bernardino mountains along State Route 18 will be closed for "several days if not weeks" because of a washout, Caltrans said in a tweet. Officials estimate repairs will cost \$4.2 million. Snowboarders and skiers will definitely be tempted in the days ahead, since snowfall is expected throughout the weekend – with as much as 4 to 8 inches expected Saturday night.

But the snow and ice will also make driving dangerous. As did the rain. The squall caused flooding in Riverside County and a rash of crashes, including a tractor-trailer going off the side of the 60 Freeway near Moreno Valley, and a Tesla careening off of 15 Freeway and down an embankment in Corona, according to the California Highway Patrol.

No injuries were reported. But NWS also warned travelers to be on guard. “Moderate rain could create slick roads and travel delays along with high mountain snow accumulations and gusty winds,” forecasters said. “Additional rain and lowering snow levels could impact travel this holiday weekend.”

But for all the mayhem, the storm wasn’t all bad: The air quality on Christmas will be good across much of the region – moderate at worst, according to the South Coast Air Quality Management District. And the rain certainly helps with the drought – which the region is still in.

## Heavy Rain Causes Mudflows in California's San Bernardino County

By Staff Writer, YAHOO NEWS

Posted: Dec 24, 2021



Heavy rain showers flooded highways and caused mudflows across parts of southern California on Friday, December 24.

Footage released by **San Bernardino County Fire** shows a stretch of road in Oak Glen under two feet of mud, they said. Cleanup efforts were underway, as seen in the last clip.

Evacuation orders for Williams Canyon and Modjeska Canyon were lifted at 10 am on Friday while orders remained in place for Silverado Canyon, the County of Orange said. Credit: **San Bernardino County Fire** via Storyful.

# Holiday gifts go to more than 100 kids through San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools program

By Staff Writer, SAN BERNARDINO SUN

Posted: Dec 24, 2021



Ted Alejandre, second from left, San Bernardino County superintendent of schools, calls out a child's name with a bag of presents in hand, with help of Santa Claus, Buddy the Elf, San Bernardino County firefighters and San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools staff members, at the Children Deserve Success program's Dec. 10, 2021, holiday celebration. (Courtesy of San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools)

San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools' Children Deserve Success program held its annual holiday celebration event Dec. 10, stopping at three transitional sites in San Bernardino.

The holiday procession included Superintendent Ted Alejandre, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools staff members dressed as Santa Claus and Buddy the Elf and members of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

A fire engine from the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department led the procession.

"I'm honored to be part of this amazing opportunity to spread holiday cheer to the students who need it most," Alejandre said in a news release. "The amazing folks with Children Deserve Success consistently deliver a holiday celebration that delights the children and helps alleviate some of the strain the holidays can cause for families experiencing challenges."

Tony Moore, a motivational speaker known by his superhero persona, The Motivator, and his Warriors were also part of the holiday event.

The celebration kicked off at the Time for Change Foundation's Phoenix Square location where the group delivered about 40 holiday gift bags to students served by San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools programs. The bags contained gifts from the children's wish lists, books, coats and healthy snacks provided by community partners.

Law enforcement officers also distributed restaurant gift cards to the children.

The Time for Change Foundation assists disenfranchised women and their children, helping families achieve self-sufficiency by providing housing and other supportive services.

The holiday procession also visited the Salvation Army and Veronica's Home of Mercy in San Bernardino. In total, more than 100 children received holiday gift bags during the event.

## First responders find vehicle upside down in the Mojave River in Hesperia

By Rene Ray De La Cruz, VICTORVILLE DAILY PRESS

Posted: 8:15 a.m. PT Dec 25, 2021



San Bernardino County Fire and other agencies responded on Friday to reports of a vehicle upside down in the high and fast-flowing Mojave River near the Deep Creek Dam in Hesperia. Photo Courtesy of Jose Gonzalez.

Rescue personnel on Christmas Eve found a vehicle found upside down in the high and fast-flowing Mojave River near the Deep Creek Dam in Hesperia.

**San Bernardino County Fire** began a rescue operation after receiving the 9:30 a.m. Friday call but before rescue personnel entered the water the California Highway Patrol reported the driver escaped from the vehicle and went home, Battalion Chief Steve Tracy said

It was unknown how long the vehicle was in the water, Tracy told videographer Jose Gonzalez. A helicopter was also used to search the Mojave River area for possible victims. **SBC Fire** was assisted by the CHP, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, and the Apple Valley Fire Protection District, according to Tracy. With the recent heavy rainfall, excess water was released to the Mojave River, which caused the water level to rise, according to Tracy.

Conditions in the river are expected to remain hazardous as more rainfall is predicted, according to Tracy, who urged commuters not to cross river beds with moving water but to stop and turn around. The National Weather Service predicts more rain to fall on Monday and other times throughout the week.



## Christmas morning crash shuts down Highway 138 in Hesperia

By Staff Writer, VICTOR VALLEY NEWS GROUP

Posted: Dec 25, 2021



Hugo C. Valdez

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A stretch of Highway 138 was closed on Christmas morning after a head-on traffic collision. It happened at about 7:15 am, on SR-138 between Coriander Drive and Summit Post Office Road in the City of Hesperia. **San Bernardino County Fire** responded to the call and upon arrival, they located a silver Dodge Avenger and a black Honda Accord with major front-end damage blocking the roadway.

Firefighters reported they had two people with critical injuries and one of them would require extrication. Two helicopters were requested to respond to the scene, however, one was later canceled. A Mercy Air helicopter landed at the scene and airlifted one of the injured male drivers to a trauma center. The other male driver was transported by ground ambulance to Loma Linda University Medical Center. An update on their injuries was not available.

California Highway Patrol officers shut down the two-lane highway in order to conduct a major accident investigation. East and westbound lanes of Highway 138 remain closed between Wagon Train and Summit Valley Road for approximately two hours. The roadway was reopened in both directions at 9:44 am.