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- Firefighters battle blaze in unincorporated Apple Valley; several trailers, vehicles engulfed
- Red Cross installs smoke alarms in mobile homes

Firefighters battle blaze in unincorporated Apple Valley; several trailers, vehicles engulfed

By Martin Estacio, VVDAILYPRESS.COM

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Firefighters battle blaze in unincorporated Apple Valley; several trailers, vehicles engulfed. Martin Estacio, Victorville Daily Press.

Firefighters Wednesday afternoon battled a structure fire in a remote area in northern unincorporated Apple Valley. The blaze, reported just before 5 p.m. Wednesday, had reached several trailers and vehicles, along with a truck trailer, according to a Daily Press reporter at the scene.

The five-acre compound has multiple travel trailers and vehicles burning, **San Bernardino County Fire** Department Battalion Chief Doug Nelson said. The people who lived in the compound are accounted for and have no injuries, Nelson said.

At least one double or triple wide living trailer appears to have been destroyed, according to a Daily Press reporter at the scene. Fire officials are holding the fire in check and waiting for three water tenders to show up, Nelson said. Just before 6 p.m., the first water tender arrived on the scene.

Once water tenders show up, firefighters will start to move inside and extinguish the fire, Nelson said. A neighbor told the Daily Press that he could hear what sounded like “gunfire” going off when the fire started. The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department is the lead agency at the scene. Members of the Victorville Fire Department and the Bureau of Land Management are also on the scene.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/videos/news/2022/03/31/firefighters-battle-fire-unincorporated-apple-valley/7226151001/>

Red Cross installs smoke alarms in mobile homes

By Crystal Harrell, HI-DESERT STAR

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A San Bernardino County firefighter installs a smoke alarm in a Yucca Valley resident's home during the Red Cross Sound the Alarm program.

YUCCA VALLEY — Home fires claim seven lives every day, but having working smoke alarms can cut the risk of death by half. The American Red Cross is on a mission to rally volunteers to install 50,000 free smoke alarms nationwide, as part of its Sound the Alarm initiative.

As part of this spring event, Red Cross will install free smoke alarms and share safety information in at-risk communities while fundraising to help families prepare for, respond to and recover from home fires. On Saturday, March 19, **San Bernardino County Fire** personnel, Red Cross volunteers and staff, the Morongo Basin Community Emergency Response Team, and community members banded together to install 135 smoke detectors free of charge while providing home fire safety education to 97 households at two Yucca Valley mobile home parks.

The event was organized locally by the San Bernardino County Chapter of the Red Cross in partnership with the county fire department. Firefighters and volunteers visited residents offering to install smoke detectors, provide fire safety tips and answer any questions.

“Sound the Alarm is not only a lifesaving event but an important community building exercise. It allows us to connect and work side by side with partners while showing a united front to the residents we serve in the Basin,” said Morongo Basin resident and emergency medical technician Justin Merino, who is serving several roles for San Bernardino County Red Cross.

Fifty-one people helped at the Sound the Alarm event, including five Morongo Basin CERT members, 15 members of the county fire Department, two Humanitarian Emergency Lifeline Project representatives, two members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and 27 Red Cross volunteers, staff and AmeriCorps members.

The Red Cross launched the Home Fire Campaign in 2014 and says it has saved more than 1,200 lives. Through home visits, Red Cross has installed more than 2.2 million free smoke alarms and prepared more than 2.5 million people for home fires by collaborating with fire departments and community partners. Volunteers are always needed, as 90% of the Red Cross workforce is volunteer.

The Red Cross has developed short, streamlined training videos to help volunteers get ready for their Sound the Alarm experience. This includes guidance on how to safely and effectively conduct an in-home visit and specific guides for the smoke alarm installer, educator and documenter.

While Sound the Alarm is a planned group event, the Red Cross also offers a program called Hot Shots, which provides appointment-based free smoke detector installations for residents.

Events like this are an important part of Community Risk Reduction. CRR is a process to identify and prioritize local risks, followed by the investment of resources to reduce their occurrence and impact.

“When it comes to the recipients of the smoke alarms, they are always so welcoming of Red Cross and fire personnel into their homes. It’s a wonderful opportunity to educate, take time to hear from residents and the simple act of just checking in on our neighbors,” Merino said.

“Awesomely enough, the initiative is at no charge, and we couldn’t out forward these events without partners, volunteers and donors.”

To learn more about Sound the Alarm and how to volunteer, visit www.soundthealarm.org/socal.

<https://hidesertstar.com/news/182549/red-cross-installs-smoke-alarms-in-mobile-homes/>