



NEWS



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San Bernardino County Fire Department is one of busiest in the nation, survey says

By Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: August 16, 2022



The San Bernardino County Fire Department, seen here responding to a fire at a building, is one of the busiest in the nation. (Contributed photo by San Bernardino County Fire Department)

The firefighters in the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** are extremely busy, according to a recent survey by Firehouse.com.

A total of 230 fire departments took part in the annual National Run Survey (representing 41 states, the District of Columbia, and three Canadian provinces), and San Bernardino County ranked 22nd busiest, running a total of 129,953 calls in 2021.

In addition, the county's ME224 was the sixth busiest engine in the nation with 6,590 calls. ME224 serves the City of San Bernardino Municipal Government.

MT304, which serves Hesperia, was the 22nd busiest truck/ladder in the nation with 3,355 calls.

Overall, Chicago was the busiest department according to the survey, responding to a total of 889,609 calls.

The City of Los Angeles ranked No. 2 in the nation with 470,274 calls, followed by L.A. County at No. 3 with 407,516 calls.

The 230 departments represented in this survey protect 80,699,791 people, and they have budgets totaling more than \$17 billion. They provide the services with 3,560 engine companies, 1,301 ladder companies, 1,753 ambulances and numerous specialized units. They responded to more than 543,000 fire calls, 3.2 million EMS calls, and almost 4.5 million total calls in 2021.

The complete National Run Survey can be found at <https://www.firehouse.com/run-surveys>

----- THIS YEAR, San Bernardino County Fire crews have had a busy summer, working numerous fires both locally and throughout California, the department said in a Facebook post.

S.B. County crews have been deployed throughout the state, via California's robust mutual aid system.

"While your local firefighters are deployed, our fire stations remain fully staffed for local emergencies," the Facebook post said.

S.B. County crews are currently assigned to the Lightning Complex Fire in the Humbolt area. The crews remain busy working 24-hour shifts in steep country, aiding with perimeter control, structure defense, and mop-up operations.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland_empire_news/san-bernardino-county-fire-department-is-one-of-busiest-in-the-nation-survey-says/article_a139f014-1de1-11ed-90fc-c7154581f31f.html

UPDATE: Driver is found dead in vehicle in intersection on Aug. 8; death is ruled a suicide

By Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: August 16, 2022



Police investigate after a driver was found dead in a vehicle that was stopped in an intersection in northwestern Fontana in the early morning hours of Aug. 8. (Contributed photo by Gilbert Gonzalez)

A driver was found dead in a vehicle that was stopped in an intersection in northwestern Fontana in the early morning hours of Aug. 8, and an investigation has determined that the death was a suicide, according to the Fontana Police Department.

The incident took place at the intersection of Baseline Avenue and Heritage Circle at about 2:18 a.m.

Officers responded to the scene after a person who had been driving through the area called to report that the driver (an adult male) of a white SUV was found unconscious.

Medics from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** also arrived and pronounced the driver deceased.

In a Facebook post on Aug. 16, the P.D. revealed that the man was found in the driver's seat of the vehicle deceased from a gunshot wound and a gun in his hand.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff Coroner's Office and Fontana P.D. detectives determined the gunshot wound was self-inflicted, and the cause of death was suicide.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/update-driver-is-found-dead-in-vehicle-in-intersection-on-aug-8-death-is-ruled/article_c771fbec-173c-11ed-bedf-63e6eb12f0b0.html

LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS RETURN FROM FIGHTING NOR-CAL WILDFIRES

By Robert Haydon, Z107.7

Posted: August 16, 2022



A **San Bernardino County Fire Strike Team** has returned home after a 14-day assignment working the Oak and McKinney fires. “Brush Patrol 6606” is housed out of Station 44 here in Joshua Tree. They are commonly deployed when there is a declared “state of extreme emergency” – using a mutual aid agreement with the California Office of Emergency Services enacted back in 1950.

The crew worked 24-hour shifts on the northern California fires – working the perimeters and performing mop-up operations. The crew was staffed by Captain Jason Pitsor, Engineer Justin Hashimoto and Firefighter-Paramedic Robert Guerra. Fire Station 44 in Joshua Tree remained fully-staffed as the crew worked the wildfires nearly 700 miles north. Both fires are almost fully-contained and have burned nearly 80,000 acres.

<https://z1077fm.com/local-firefighters-return-from-fighting-nor-cal-wildfires/>