



MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PATRICK J. MARTINEZ, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: WEEKLY MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 12, 2024

1. From **July 4th to July 7th, 2024**, the Marine Enforcement Unit conducted a holiday operation across the Colorado River, Big Bear Lake, and Lake Arrowhead. The focus was on areas near resorts, launch ramps, and marinas.

Operation Highlights:

- **Resources Deployed:** 11 patrol vessels, an OHV team, the Sheriff's Dive Team, and two helicopters.
- **Enforcement Actions:** 203 stops, 10 arrests for boating under the influence, 79 citations for boating violations, and numerous verbal warnings.
- **Incidents Investigated:** An injury accident on Big Bear Lake, a non-injury accident at Needles Marina, and a boat fire in Topock Gorge with no injuries. The unit urges all California residents to obtain their boater card at www.californiaboatercard.com and reminds everyone to wear life jackets and boat sober to ensure safety on the water. For additional information, refer to the attached press release.

2. The National Weather Service has issued Excessive Heat Warnings for the Tri-State area over the past few weeks. In response, the following facilities are available to the public as cooling centers:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Needles Aquatic Center
1101 Civic Center Dr.
(760) 326-3866 | • San Bernardino County Public Library
1111 Bailey Ave
(760) 326-9255 |
| • Needles Senior Center
1699 Bailey Ave
(760) 326-4789 | |

Please remember to stay hydrated, limit outdoor activities, and be aware of heat exhaustion and stroke signs and symptoms. Additionally, weather forecasters warn that excessive heat will continue to elevate fire weather conditions, potentially fueling the growth of existing fires. It is crucial to be prepared to prevent and

minimize the damage of wildfires. Cal Fire has put together an evacuation guide, which can be accessed by clicking on [this link](#) or referring to the attachment.

3. **Next week**, Palo Verde College Needles Center will host the "Summer Cool Party" on **Tuesday, July 16, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at 725 W. Broadway. This community outreach event promises a fun-filled day with a live radio broadcast, water slides, and complimentary food, snacks, and drinks.

Representatives from the main Palo Verde Campus in Blythe will be on hand to assist students with applications, financial aid, basic needs, and other support services. Everyone is welcome to join! For more information, please refer to the attached flyer or call 760-326-5033. The City of Needles and the Chamber of Commerce will also have a shared booth at the event. Come by and say hello!

4. On **June 21, 2024**, the City of Needles community celebrated the grand opening of Bob Belt Beach Park, previously known as First Beach. Just in time for the summer season, the park's revitalization was made possible by a \$2,179,702 grant from the State of California's Clean California Grant Program. This transformation aligns with our Council Goals, creating a functional and engaging environment to attract more families and engage residents and visitors.

Join the celebration and watch a video of the new Bob Belt Beach Park by [clicking here](#).

5. City staff is thrilled to extend a warm welcome to the Needles Chamber of Commerce's newest members, Elizabeth Hayden and Tena McGee-Scott. Elizabeth will focus on chamber operations and member relations, while Tena will handle volunteer coordination and visitor center operations. For more details, please refer to the attached Chamber Update report dated **July 9, 2024**.

The Chamber of Commerce hosts the "Good Morning Needles, Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast" on the fourth Thursday of every month at 7:30 a.m. at the Needles Elks Lodge 1608. Please call the chamber at (760) 326-2050 to secure your reservations.

6. **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:**

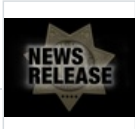
- **The Housing Authority of the City of Needles** will be accepting applications for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program from **July 1 to July 31, 2024**. The Public Housing waitlist remains **open year-round**. Applications can be obtained and submitted at 908 Sycamore Drive. For more information, call (760) 326-3222, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

1. SBSD - Colorado River Sheriffs Department

Receive alerts from your local agencies

...or text your ZIP CODE to 888777 for mobile alerts

Full Notification



Monday July 8th, 2024 :: 09:37 a.m. PDT

Advisory

Holiday Marine Enforcement Operation Results in 10 Arrests and 79 Citation Issued

DATE: July 8, 2024

INCIDENT: Holiday Marine Enforcement Results

LOCATION: San Bernardino County

SUMMARY: The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department's Marine Enforcement Unit conducted its 2024 Fourth of July Holiday Enforcement Operation Thursday, July 4th through Sunday, July 7th. The operation took place along the Colorado River, from the California/Nevada state line to the Riverside County line, as well as Big Bear Lake and Lake Arrowhead.

Most of the operation was focused on the waterways with resorts, launch ramps and marinas along the river and lakes. A total of 11 patrol vessels, an OHV team, the Sheriff's Dive Team and two Sheriff's Department helicopters were deployed throughout the area. The Marine Enforcement Unit conducted a total of 203 enforcement stops throughout the holiday weekend. There was a total of 10 arrests made for boating under the influence. The following are the names of the individuals arrested during the operation:

Michael Higuera, 22 years of age, Murrieta Ca. (Boating under the influence)
Jared Tavenner, 24 years of age, Riverside Ca. (Boating under the influence)
Anthony Esparza, 27 years of age, Pomona Ca. (Boating under the influence)
Unique Danovaro, 29 years of age, Colton Ca. (Boating under the influence)
Glen Anding, 24 years of age, Las Vegas Nv. (Boating under the influence)
Robert Reynaga, 37 years of age, Beaumont Ca. (Boating under the influence)
Kevin Krol, 52 years of age, Thousand Oaks Ca. (Boating under the influence)
Jonathan Cardenas, 21 years of age, Alta Loma Ca. (Boating under the influence)
Anguloosorio Arnulfo, 28 years of age, Indio Ca. (Boating under the influence)
John Newman, 45 years of age, Henderson Nv. (Boating under the influence)

Approximately 79 citations were issued for various boating law violations as well as hundreds of verbal warnings. The Marine Enforcement Unit investigated an injury boat accident on Big Bear Lake and a non-injury boat accident at Needles Marina in Needles, Ca. A boat fire was also investigated in the Topock Gorge area of the Colorado River and luckily, no one was injured due to the fire.

The Colorado River Station Marine Enforcement Unit urges all California residents to go online to www.californiaboatercard.com and take the online test to obtain their boater card which is now required by law. The Colorado River Station Marine Enforcement Unit is, as always, dedicated to providing a safe boating atmosphere for the public and reminds everyone to wear their life jackets and to boat sober.

For press releases, news and information, follow the Colorado River Station on Twitter at: @CORiverStation, Facebook @SBCSDColoradoRiverStation and/or Instagram @SBCSDColoradoRiverStation

Refer: Sergeant Travis Vessells



« Previous

Image 1 of 2

Next »

More Messages

[See more messages from Needles, California »](#)

Navigate & Discover

Enter a town, zip code or address

Station: Colorado River Station

Phone No. (760) 326-9200

SHANNON D. DICUS, Sheriff-Coroner
San Bernardino County Sheriff-Coroner Department

Address/Location

[SBSD - Colorado River Sheriffs Department](#)

1111 Bailey Ave
Needles, CA 92363

Contact

Emergency: 9-1-1

Message and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. [Terms](#) and [privacy](#).

[Company Overview](#) [Contact](#) [Careers](#) [Terms of Service](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [FAQs](#)

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2. CAL FIRE

Go! Evacuation Guide

Guidance for safe and efficient evacuation during wildfires.



[Home](#) / [Prepare](#) / Go! Evacuation Guide

Preparing for wildfire evacuation in California



The Go! Evacuation Guide is your vital resource for preparing and executing evacuation procedures during wildfire emergencies. It offers crucial information on pre-evacuation steps, handling power outages, evacuation methods, animal safety, and what to do if trapped.

Explore pre-evacuation actions below:

[Pre-evacuation preparation steps](#)

[Power outage information](#)

[Evacuation procedures](#)

[Animal evacuation](#)

[Guidance if trapped](#)

Pre-evacuation steps to take

How to protect your home before evacuating



Inside the house

- Pack your 'Go Bag' or [Emergency Kit](#), ready to grab
- Check that your [Wildfire Action Plan](#) is up-to-date
- Know your community's emergency plan, evacuation routes, and destinations
- Close all windows and doors but leave them unlocked
- Take down flammable window treatments like shades and curtains, and close metal shutters
- Clear away light curtains
- Move anything that burns easily to the middle of rooms, away from windows and doors
- Turn off the gas at the meter and pilot lights
- Leave lights on for firefighters to see your house in smoke
- Switch off the air conditioning

Outside the house

- Bring in flammable items from outside, like patio furniture, toys, doormats, and trash bins. Alternatively, place them in your pool
- Shut off propane tanks
- Move grills and other propane BBQ appliances away from the house
- Attach garden hoses to outside taps for firefighter use and fill buckets with water to scatter around
- Don't leave sprinklers or water running as it can lower critical water pressure.
- Keep exterior lights on to make your home visible in smoky or dark conditions.
- Put your emergency kit in your car
- Park your car in the driveway, facing outwards, loaded and ready, with all doors and windows shut
- Have a ladder handy for firefighter roof access
- Seal attic and ground vents with plywood or commercial seals
- Keep an eye on the fire situation and don't wait for an evacuation order if you feel at risk
- Check with neighbors to ensure they're also prepared



- Keep pets close and ready to go
- Plan for farm animal evacuation early, arranging transport and safe locations

Evacuation steps

When urgent evacuation is necessary, these steps will guide you to leave safely and quickly.

1 Review Evaluation Plan Checklist

2 Monitor wildfire updates

3 Put 'Go Bag' in the car

4 Wear the right clothes

5 Get pets ready to evacuate

How to prepare for power outages during wildfires



When wildfires strike, power outages are common. Along with the [pre-evacuation steps](#) above, here's what you need to know to stay safe and prepared.

- **Learn manual operation:** Be able to open garage doors or gates without power.
- **Understand utility controls:** Get to know your home's utility boxes for electricity, water, and gas and how to safely manage them.
- **Build an [Emergency Supply Kit](#):** Pack essentials like water, coolers, non-perishable food, manual can-opener, current medications, battery-operated radio, durable flashlights, extra batteries, and phone chargers.
- **Keep vehicles ready:** Maintain at least half a tank of gas in your vehicle.
- **Create a safety plan:** Keep shoes near your bed in case you need to evacuate during the night and have a clear plan for your family and pets during emergencies.
- **Generator use & safety:** Understand your generator's safety guidelines. Know where to connect it, what electrical cords to use, and the electrical load rating. Improper installation may put yourself or utility workers at risk for electrocution.
- **Stay connected:** Always have a charged cell phone for emergencies and keep up with the latest information from CAL FIRE and local authorities.

What to do if the power goes out

In the event of a power outage, especially during wildfire threats, it's important to stay calm and follow these simple steps:

- **Keep fridge & freezer shut:** This helps preserve food longer.
- **Turn off gas & combustibles:** Shut off gas lines and items like propane tanks.
- **Avoid power lines:** Stay at least 10 feet away from overhead lines and electrical equipment. Never touch them.
- **Stay updated:** Use a battery-powered radio or your cellphone for wildfire updates.

For more information and safety guidelines, check out these resources:

- [PG&E – Safety & preparedness](#)
- [Southern California Edison – Power outage preparedness](#)

READY FOR WILDFIRE: Prepare for Wildfire



About public safety power shutoff (PSPS) events

A PSPS is when electric companies turn off power on purpose. This usually happens during very dry and windy weather to help prevent wildfires. The idea is to stop sparks from power lines or electrical equipment from starting a fire.

For more info on PSPS events in California, especially from major electric companies, check out these resources:

- [PG&E Safety Shutoff Details](#)
- [SCE Public Safety Power Shutoffs](#)
- [SDG&E Public Safety Power Shutoffs](#)
- [Bear Valley Public Safety Power Shutoff](#)
- [Liberty Public Safety Power Shutoffs](#)
- [Pacific Power Public Safety Power Shutoff](#)

When to evacuate during a wildfire

If fire officials suggest evacuating, it's best to leave right away. This helps you avoid danger and keeps roads clear for firefighters. In big wildfires, there's no time for door-to-door warnings, so if you're told to go, do it fast to stay safe.

Following evacuation orders:

- **Stay informed:** You'll be advised of potential evacuations as early as possible. Listen to local radio or TV for updates from authorities.
- **Officials decide:** Fire officials decide when and where to evacuate based on the fire, wind, and terrain.
- **Law enforcement role:** Police enforce evacuation orders. Follow their directions right away.
- **"Order" & "warning":** These terms alert you to the significance of the danger. Other terms like "precautionary" and "immediate threat" might be used too.
- **Act fast:** In severe wildfires, there's no time to waste. If advised to leave, do so without delay.
- **Don't wait for orders:** It's safer to leave before a mandatory order is issued.
- **Stay alert:** You may be directed to temporary assembly areas to await transfer to a safe location.
- **Help firefighters:** Don't return home until fire officials notify you that it's safe to do so.



Being aware of hazards is crucial when you return home:

- **Wait for clearance:** Don't go home until it's declared safe.
- **Watch for dangers:** Look out for things like downed power lines.
- **Check gas lines:** Be cautious with propane tanks and gas lines.
- **Inspect for fire hazards:** Search for any hidden embers or fires.

Animal Safety

Don't forget your pets and livestock. With some advanced planning you can increase their chances of surviving a wildfire.

Livestock evacuation checklist

Livestock emergency supply kit

Pet evacuation checklist

Pet emergency supply kit

If you *must* leave your pet

Tips if trapped

Here's what to do whether you're in your vehicle, outside, or at home, focusing on calm and quick actions for your safety.

In your vehicle:

On foot:



At home:

Prepare

Prevent

Forest Health

Post Wildfire

More from CAL FIRE

[Fire Safety Laws](#)

[Find Your Fire Station](#)

[Partnering Agencies](#)

[Captain Cal](#)

[CAL FIRE Website](#)

[FAQ](#)



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ReadyForWildfire.org and its statewide campaigns are partially funded by a grant from the USDA Forest Service, which is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

3. SUMMER COOL PARTY

**Tuesday,
July 16,
2024**

**Palo Verde College
Needles Center
Presents**

SUMMER

COOL PARTY

**LIVE RADIO BROADCAST
WATER SLIDES | HOT DOGS | POPCORN
COMMUNITY RESOURCES
COUNSELORS | FINANCIAL AID
BASIC NEEDS
FREE**

10 AM - 2 PM

725 W. Broadway, Needles

5. NEEDLES CHAMBER



TO: Honorable Mayor Janet Jernigan, City Council Members & City Manager

FROM: Karrie Brazaski, Interim Chamber President

SUBJECT: Chamber Updates

DATE: July 9, 2024

Staffing & Visitor Center Operations

- Fully staff to meet our contractual obligation since May
- 2 Part Time Staff Member hired
 - Elizabeth Hayden - focused on Chamber Operations/Member Relations
 - Tena McGee-Scott - focused on Volunteer Coordination/Visitor Center Operations
 - Working with City Finance Department, Barbara Dileo to prorate payments per the contract for the days of non-coverage of the visitor center last quarter
 - Added 1 volunteer staffer to ensure full coverage
 - Visitors per day number between 1 - 7 unless there is an event then we have had as high as 25

City's Sign Program

- Sign program was placed on a short hold due to staff turn over
- Currently working to rebid quotes as they were too old to be honored by vendors
- Board Member working with Chamber staff to coordinate activities as we move forward
- Initial sign design has been approved by Chamber Board as well as the membership at large who attended live meeting when presented
- Chamber has received funds to defray investment cost for new signs from San Bernardino County District Supervisor Dawn Rowe
 - Funds have been set aside into a designated fund only to be accessed to cover costs related to the program
 - We are reporting our progress quarterly with Supervisor Rowe's office
 - A copy of this information will be forwarded to her office
- Once design costs and insulation is determined the Chamber team will solicit business to advertise on the signs

California Visitor Center

- Working with the Visitor Center Subcommittee to determine viability of the Chamber's Visitor Center growing into a California Visitor Center
- Chamber Board members are reviewing requirements and financial commitment that would be required to move in that direction

Last Quarter Chamber Activities

- Updated social media presence
 - Facebook/Instagram - Needles Area Chamber of Commerce
- Ribbon Cuttings/Participation - 5
- Good Morning Needles Networking Breakfast - 3 Held
- Surveying Membership to determine need to help support businesses
- 3 New Businesses join the Chamber

Up Coming Event

- State of the City
 - Date to be determined - Most likely late September or early October
 - Working with City Manager & Mayor to capture City Highlights
 - Plan to offer businesses opportunity to spotlight their operations
- Good Morning Needles Networking Breakfast
 - 4th Thursday of the month
 - Held at the Elk Lodge
 - Next one July 25, 2024 @ 0730
- Lucky Green Golf Tournament 2025
 - Save the date - Saturday, March 15, 2025
 - River's Edge Golf Course