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Firefighters Put Out North County Dryer Fire

Dryer Burst Into Flames At Home In 6400 Block Of Primero Izquidero

POSTED: 6:12 pm PST December 8, 2010

RANCHO SANTA FE, Calif -- Firefighters were able to quickly douse a non-injury blaze that erupted in a clothes dryer at a North County home Wednesday afternoon.

The appliance burst into flames at the residence in the 6400 block of Primero Izquidero shortly before 3:30 p.m., said Julie Taber, a spokeswoman for the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District.

Crews were able to keep the blaze from spreading out of the appliance, according to Taber.

The fire, which did not displace the residents of the home, caused an estimated \$2,500 worth of damage, she said.

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Stores Flooded, Goods Damaged

By [MEGAN TEVRIZIAN](#)

Updated 10:45 AM PST, Mon, Dec 13, 2010



A water main break happened at the [Solana Beach Town Center](#) early Monday flooding Marshalls, [Staples](#) and the yet-to-be-opened Kahoots pet store.

"We had everything from cat and dog food to bird cages -- you name it -- coming right out so it was quite the scene," said [Rancho Santa Fe](#) Fire Battalion Chief Mike Gibbs.

Firefighters arrived at San Rodolfo Drive around 3 a.m. Monday after being notified the pet store had about two feet of water inside.

Crews determined there was a water leak in the back of the store that looks like it was caused by the fire sprinkler supply line that came into the building had sheared off, Gibbs said.



LOOK

Flooding Damages Solana Beach Shops

The Staples and Marshalls stores reported up to eight inches of water. A lot of merchandise was damaged include bags of wet dog and cat food left stacked in the mall parking lot.

"It's the holiday season so it's going obviously to be hard for all of these occupants," said Gibbs. "They lost a lot of inventory and suffered a lot of damage."

"Wrong time of year to have that happen," he said.

Four engine companies and one truck company responded to the call. The businesses may be closed for more than a day as they recover from the damage. The restaurants and the rest of the shops in the plaza are open for business.

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Find this article at:

<http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local-beat/Store-Merch-Floats-Out-in-Water-Break-111791879.html>

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Man kills self in front of 4S Ranch bystanders

By [Pauline Repard](#)

Originally published December 18, 2010 at 9:08 p.m., updated December 18, 2010 at 9:58 p.m.

SAN DIEGO — A 22-year-old man committed suicide by cutting his throat in front of his girlfriend and customers at a 4S Ranch shopping center Saturday afternoon, sheriff's officials said.

The girlfriend and several other witnesses called 911 about 4:15 p.m. to report that the man had slit his throat with a knife in the parking lot of World Market on Reserve Drive and 4S Ranch Parkway, sheriff's Lt. Dave Brown said.

Paramedics took the man to a hospital, where he later died, Poway sheriff's Sgt. Greg Rylaarsdam said.

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Find this article at:

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2010/dec/18/suicide-try-front-4s-ranch-bystanders>

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Fire in clothing dryer threatens house

RANCHO SANTA FE — Firefighters from the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District along with firefighters from the city of Encinitas responded to a call of a structure fire, but found and were able to swiftly extinguish a fire in a clothing dryer, in the 6400 block of Primero Izquierdo, the afternoon of Dec. 8.

Four fire engines, one ladder truck, one medic unit, and one battalion chief responded to the incident. No injuries were reported. The residents, who were home at the time, were able to safely evacuate and were not displaced. Damage was estimated at \$2,500.

The mission of the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District is "To protect life, property, and environment through prevention, preparedness, education and emergency response." Formed in 1946, the district spans approximately 38-square miles and protects over 27,000 citizens. The Fire District operates out of four full-time fire stations and serves the communities within and surrounding Rancho Santa Fe and 4S-Ranch.



EYES ON THE PRIZE

The Solana Beach Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Oct. 22 for new member Solana Beach Family Optometry, 977 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Suite B. Solana Beach Family Optometry offers eye care plus a full-service optical department. For 13 years, Kristin Peterson-Salgado has practiced medically based optometry with a focus on ocular disease, geriatrics, traditional and hard-to-fit contact lenses, diabetic exams and Lasik or cataract surgery pre-operative exam. *Courtesy photo*

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Pet adoption event highlights the holidays

RANCHO SANTA FE — More than 490,000 orphan pets woke up in their new homes on Thanksgiving after being adopted during the first eight weeks of the Iams Home 4 the Holidays pet adoption drive. Helen Woodward Animal Center and IH4TH officials are working to reach a goal of 1.5 million adoptions by Jan. 3.

The 12th annual Iams Home 4 the Holidays drive began Oct. 1. The 3,864 participating animal shelters and pet rescue organizations in 22 countries around the world report 492,017 pet adoptions. The current num-

bers included 258,234 dogs and puppies, 223,383 cats and kittens and 10,400 other pets.

"While we've completed more than 5.1 million adoptions since the drive began in 1999, we continue to focus on one adoption at a time," Helen Woodward Animal Center Spokesman John Van Zante said. "Our goal is to match the needs of each pet with the desires of its new family."

"The 25 participating groups in San Diego County are leading more than 3,800 others worldwide," he said. "This year we're joined by

animal shelters and pet rescue groups in India, Columbia, Lebanon, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and Qatar.

"Iams Home 4 the Holidays saves lives. Many of these pets would be euthanized if they're not adopted. It also takes business away from puppy mills during their most profitable time of year. We're all in favor of that."

Iams Home 4 the Holidays representatives will ring the closing bell on the New York Stock Exchange on Dec. 23, but Iams Home 4 the Holidays continues through Jan. 3.

To locate participating animal shelters worldwide visit www.home4theholidays.com, visit Helen Woodward Animal Center at 6461 El Apajo Road, or call (858) 756-4117.

DONATION

CONTINUED FROM B5

train the hundreds of interns who have progressed to professional mental health careers grounded in grief and loss."

In its award letter to HNC, The Country Friends President Jeanne Lucia said, "The Country Friends commends your organization for the work you do."

The Country Friends was formed in 1954 to fulfill a stated need to "help others to help themselves." To date, through multifaceted efforts and events, it has raised more than \$12 million to support human care agencies throughout San Diego County. More information on the group is at

www.TheCountryFriends.org.

The nonprofit Hospice of the North Coast was established in 1980 to fill the need for comprehensive, compassionate hospice care in North County.

Since its inception, it has grown in services, staff and clients; it currently provides a full spectrum of programs to terminally ill clients and to their families, including bereavement support. To fulfill its mission of maintaining dignity, comfort and the highest quality of life for those it serves, regardless of ability to pay, Hospice of the North Coast hosts fundraising events, operates a family support camp and resale shop, and maintains a cadre of volunteers.

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 The North County Times - Californian

4S RANCH: Man who slit throat in shopping center parking lot dies

By **CHRIS NICHOLS** - cnichols@nctimes.com | Posted: Sunday, December 19, 2010 8:55 pm

4S RANCH ---- A 22-year-old man who slit his throat in front of bystanders Saturday in a shopping center parking lot died on the way to a local hospital, a sheriff's lieutenant said Sunday.

Sheriff's deputies responded at 4:17 p.m. to a report of an attempted suicide outside a Cost Plus World Market near Reserve Drive and 4S Parkway.

The unidentified man was rushed to a La Jolla trauma center, but he died before doctors could try to save him, Lt. Dave Brown said Sunday.

The man's ex-girlfriend reported the incident, telling dispatchers the man cut his throat in front of her, sheriff's Lt. Jim Duffy said on Saturday.

Dispatchers received more reports from witnesses as rescuers rushed to the scene, he said.

The man reportedly used a knife to cut his throat, Duffy said.

An investigator at the county medical examiner's office said she could not immediately identify the man or provide any information about the incident.

BUZZ: Halfway through the fiscal year

By Tom Lang, RSF Association president



Tom Lang

December marks the halfway point through our fiscal year at the Association. It also closes out the first decade of this century. Ten years ago we were worried

about Y2K. Now it is the economy and the financial status of our local, state and city governments. Moving into the second decade the Association board plans to continue to maintain and improve the quality of life in our community.

Although we enter the year on a strong financial footing, we also are in a position to make proactive moves to adjust to the economy should it become nec-

essary. This will prevent us from being driven by economic forces beyond our control. We look forward to next year's opportunities and challenges.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone the best for the holiday season.

Enjoy this time of the year with your family and friends and have a very happy New Year.

RSF Fire District to open an office at Cielo Village

Some of the RSF Fire Department offices will move to a new location at Cielo Village in March, according to RSF Fire District Board President Jim Ashcraft.

The administrative and accounting offices will move to Cielo, as well as the offices for some personnel, such as the fire chief and fire marshal, Ashcraft said.

However, the firefighters, battalion chiefs and North County Dispatch JPA will remain at the current Rancho Santa Fe location on El Fuego, Ashcraft said.

"This move will provide the department with more space and parking,"

Ashcraft noted, adding that they will be moving into a 6,000-square-foot facility in the northwest corner of the Cielo Village. "The location in Cielo is very central for the entire district," Ashcraft said.

Formed in 1946, the RSF Fire District now spans approximately 38 square miles and protects more than 27,000 citizens. The RSF Fire District currently operates out of four full-time fire stations and serves the communities within and surrounding Rancho Santa Fe and 4S-Ranch. For more information, visit www.rsf-fire.org.

— Staff report

Waste Management collection service to follow regular schedule for Christmas and New Year's holidays

Waste Management of North County and Coast Waste Management's trash and recycling pick-up service will be provided on the regularly scheduled day for both the week of Christmas Day and the week of New Year's Day. There will be no service delays.

"Customers will receive normal service during the week before Christmas and the week before New Year's," said Ken Ryan, district manager of Coast Waste Management and Waste Management of North County. "We wish our customers a safe and happy holiday season."

Regular Collection Schedule

Customers in the following cities should place their bins out for pick-up on their regular collection day during the week of Christmas Day and the week of New Year's Day: Carlsbad; Del Mar; Oceanside; Solana Beach; and Communities in unincorporated San Diego County: Rancho Santa Fe and Valley Center.

Holiday Hours

Waste Management Office: Closed on Friday, Dec. 24, and Monday, Jan. 3, in observance of the holidays; Buyback Center: Closed on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1; and Customer Service Center: Customer service is available at 1-866-WM RECYCLE, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., and will be closed at noon on Dec. 24 and closed on Saturday, Dec. 25, and Saturday, Jan. 1.

Christmas Tree Collection

Christmas Tree collection will start on Monday, Dec. 27 and run through Friday, Jan. 14. Waste Management will offer single family curbside collection and multi-family collection at designated locations at the customer location. Acceptable trees must be cut into 4 foot or smaller.

For more information about recycling, log onto <http://northcounty.wm.com>.

RSF Fire District warns residents to be cautious of phony inspectors

The RSF Fire District recently issued a warning on its web site (www.rsf-fire.org) that there have been reports in San Diego of someone going around to businesses claiming to be a fire inspector and then charging the business owner for the inspection. While no such incidents have been reported in Rancho Santa Fe, the district wants to make the community aware this is happening, the site states.

If someone comes to your home or

business to conduct a fire inspection and you have doubts or concerns, please contact the Fire District at 858-756-5971. The fire district can verify whether or not one of its inspectors has an inspection at your location at that time.

It should also be noted that all of the fire district's inspectors wear uniforms, including a badge, drive an official fire department vehicle, and carry their fire ID card with them at all times.

Happy Holidays

Bob Angello & Kathy Angello

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RanchoBernardoPatch

POLICE & FIRE

Officials Explain Response to 4S Ranch Suicide

Some witnesses have complained about the response time and a seeming lack of urgency from responders.

By **ShaunteL Lowe** December 24, 2010

The weekend death of a 22-year-old Poway man who slit his throat in a 4S Ranch shopping center is no longer under investigation and has officially been ruled a suicide, authorities said.

The chief of the [Rancho Sante Fe Fire Protection District](http://www.rsf-fire.org/) (<http://www.rsf-fire.org/>), whose department handled the suicide call, also has responded to witness concerns about an apparent slow response time and seeming lack of urgency from responders.

"They get a report there is a weapon there, and they don't know the status of the person. They have to wait for a sheriff to get on scene," said Fire Chief Tony Michel.

A witness told Patch that emergency responders drove up slowly without sirens. Michel, who said he was not on the scene, said the ambulance and fire truck arrived at the shopping center around the same time as the sheriff's deputies. The ambulance and fire truck had to pull over near the shopping center and wait until the deputies cleared the scene because of the report of a weapon.

Once the scene had been cleared, the truck and ambulance likely proceeded into the shopping center without reactivating their sirens, Michel said.

"That's what they may have seen," Michel said of the witness.

A Poway sheriff who responded and "did initiate lifesaving measures"—clutching the man's neck, one witness said—arrived with lights and sirens, said Sgt. Roy Frank from the Sheriff's Department Homicide Detail.

There were a number of witnesses to the man's suicide, including the man's girlfriend. It happened around 4:15 p.m. Saturday in the parking lot of Cost Plus World Market on Reserve Drive just off 4S Ranch Parkway.

The man cut his throat with a box cutter several times, according to the San Diego Medical Examiner's Office. His official cause of death was "incised wounds of the neck." He was pronounced dead at 5:15 p.m. Saturday at Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla.

Several readers also have questioned why the man was transported to the La Jolla hospital instead of the closer Pomerado Hospital on Poway Road or Palomar Medical Center in Escondido.

After routing and gauging traffic patterns for that time of day on a holiday weekend, the ambulance crew and fire protection district paramedic chose Scripps as the closest and easiest to reach, said Reema Makani, spokeswoman for San Diego Medical Enterprise Services (SDMES).

SDMES contracts with the fire protection district to provide ambulance services. Each fire truck also has at least one firefighter paramedic on board.

"They determined that that was the closest trauma center and, based on the patient's injuries, that's where they determined was the best place for the patient to go," Makani said.

Paramedics arrived at the scene at 4:23 p.m., five minutes after they were dispatched, and left for the hospital at 4:27 p.m., Makani said.

It took the ambulance 18 minutes to reach the La Jolla hospital on Genesee Avenue, which is between 16 and 19 miles from the shopping center depending on which route is taken.

Palomar Medical Center, on East Valley Parkway in Escondido, is about 11 miles from the shopping center and is the designated trauma center for North County. Paramedics may not be able to take patients to the closest trauma center if it is on bypass—meaning, not accepting new patients because of space or personnel constraints—but Palomar Medical Center was not on bypass at the time, spokesman Andy Hoang said.

Pomerado Hospital on Poway Road is not a trauma center.



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Solana Beach: Fire-management services raising the bar



The Cooperative Fire Management Service (CFMS) agreement is a plan that allows the consolidation of fire services, making for faster response times and lower operating costs.

By Marlena Chavira-Medford
Staff Writer

It's not often city officials find a way to save tax dollars while improving services for their residents — especially if it involves navigating uncharted territory. However, the Fire Department Shared Management

Services between Solana Beach, Del Mar, Encinitas and Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District is seemingly the exception to the norm.

After just one year, the program has already saved more than \$1 million in tax dollars cumulatively across the four communities it serves: Solana Beach has saved \$124,200; Del Mar has saved \$226,000; Encinitas has saved \$229,000; and the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District has saved \$432,832. And thanks to the command realignment it brought about, battalion chiefs are now just minutes away instead of having to be paged in from places as far away as Vista. That's important because though firefighters serve as frontline responders, a battalion chief acts as the logistical command center during an emergency.

"A battalion chief can stand back and assess the situation and be that extra safety watch out, it's a very important role," explained Solana Beach City Manager David Ott, who helped design and launch the program.

Serving as fire chief in Del Mar and Solana Beach from 2003 to 2006, Ott gained a deep insight to fire services and soon realized it made sense for smaller communities like these to join forces. That lack of a unified firefighting service within the county became especially apparent in the wake of the devastating 2003 Cedar wildfires, he said. It was around that time he started exploring the possibility of establishing a joint-effort program, something that had never been done locally. Finally getting Encinitas, Rancho Santa Fe, Del Mar and Solana Beach all on one page was no small feat.

"We were working with four local governments, and each had its own different policies and training procedures," Ott said. "Condensing all of those was a challenge. I think the initial tendency was to get everything perfect. We eventually just realized that we were never going to get it perfect, so we agreed to resolve the issues as they came up."

And though the program's first year has "gone better than most thought it would," there have been a few tweaks along the way. The program has gone through two realignments, further consolidating the positions and duties shared by the four communities. Ott said the program will likely continue to evolve as needed in time and, currently, an ad hoc committee is exploring some governing options, like a joint-powers-authority. "Overall, the success of this program has been a pleasant surprise," he said.

The program has done so well, in fact, that some communities in East County are looking to this program as a blueprint of sorts. The program's model is especially relevant now in the midst of a down economy and budget cuts, which is forcing firefighters to learn how to do more with less — a model that could potentially work with other city services. The program, Ott added, worked because "everyone bought into the idea that this was a good thing."

"This program has allowed us to provide a higher level of service for a cheaper cost," he said. "It's been a positive, rewarding program and we're looking forward the program's continued success."

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