

Wednesday, 29 April, 2015  
GUEST BOOK



Guest Book

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18 1/2 Minutes



Memorial cross and candles located at the place where Fullerton Resident Bryan Blackburn died on December 30 at the intersection of Crest Forest Drive and Fern Canyon Road (Photo by Gail Fry)

Thursday, Apr 23, 2015

April 23, 2015

By Gail Fry

Eighteen and a half minutes is how long it took for the Crest Forest Fire Protection District to respond with emergency medical services to the intersection of Crest Forest and Fern Canyon Drives where a man lay dying on the roadway after careening down a steep hillside in the late afternoon on December 30.

After the story entitled "Death in Cedarpines Park" was published in the January 29, edition of *The Alpenhorn News*, readers wanted to know how long it took for emergency responders to arrive and why the delay occurred.

According to the incident report provided by San Bernardino County Fire District (SBCFD) under its contract with Crest Forest Fire Protection District, the first call to 911 occurred at 4:54 p.m., the alarm time was at 4:58, the fire engine was en route at 5:00 with it arriving on the scene at 5:17 p.m.

In the meantime as it started to snow, citizens, including two nurses, helplessly watched as a man bleeding from his mouth and was dying in front of them and not hearing sirens, continued calling 911 seeking the location of the emergency vehicle according to Cedarpines Park Resident Paul Bormann. During one call, they were informed the fire engine was near Johnny's Market.

Inquiries to SBCFD regarding those additional calls found they were made at 5:02 and 5:05 p.m.

Numerous citizens on the scene shared lingering questions with *The Alpenhorn News* about what caused the death of the man identified by the San Bernardino County Coroner's Office as Fullerton resident Bryan Blackburn. Bormann described the scene as "bizarre," another witness observed people with alcohol on their breath, another thought Blackburn may have been hit by a car.

Bormann opined if the fire engine were coming from Top Town; it should have been there in "five to seven minutes" while expressing disbelief when told they were there at 5:17.

According to Mapquest, the distance from the fire station on Crest Forest Drive to the intersection of Crest Forest and Fern Canyon Drives is 3.38 miles and would take nine minutes under normal traffic conditions.

In response to questions, SBCFD Battalion Chief and Public Information Officer Marc Peebles explained, "The response time as you know was due to inclement weather, cars blocking the roadway and that the Fire apparatus was equipped with snow chains."

After all December 30, 2014 was the day of a snowstorm, which according to a SBCFD's News Release stranded "motorists across the mountains."

According to SBCFD's dispatch log, the only other 911-call in the mountain communities before the Cedarpines Park incident occurred at 4:33 at Fredalba Road and State Highway 330 in Running Springs and the first 911-call following occurred at 5:11 p.m. at the intersection of State Highway 138 and Old Mill Road.

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This 911-call at 5:11 appears to have been the beginning of an incident where according to the news release, "a total of 136 motorists in dozens of vehicles became stranded on the steep, snowy switchbacks on State Highway 138."

The Alpenhorn News was informed by Peebles in these type of situations, the San Bernardino County Sheriff Department is always contacted. A call to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department found its call log indicating its call had been "canceled" with no reference as to the source. Asked what department I should contact regarding the cancellation, Deputy Robert Maestas referred The Alpenhorn News to the fire department.

In response to questions regarding the canceled call Peebles explained, "I don't have any other information then what you already have obtained."

-

submit your comments

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