



# NEWS RELEASE

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## *Confined Space Rescue*

*On the morning of July 26, 2013, at 10:56 am, units from Division 1 of the San Bernardino County Fire Department responded to a call of two men trapped in the hydraulic press of a trash truck at an industrial facility.*

*Clearing a traffic collision with extrication nearby, a Battalion Chief arrived on scene within minutes to find a 42-year-old mechanic and a 54-year-old mechanic pinned deep inside the rear compartment of the truck. The two were conducting a routine repair to the vehicle, when disaster struck. The large hydraulic sliding bottom portion of the floor, used to compact trash, had pinned them at the waist, against the front wall of the compartment.*

*The Urban Search and Rescue Team, along with a Paramedic Engine Company, made entry into the confined space. They encountered a frantic co-worker who had responded to the two screaming, and was dismantling the wall with a cutting torch. An assessment of the two-trapped victims revealed that the 42-year-old had succumbed to the horrific crushing injuries he had sustained. His position in the opening had created a small void for which the 54-year-old had managed to survive in. He was extricated with the use of a cutting torch, cribbing, and the hydraulic spreaders. Three Battalion Chiefs, two Engine Companies, a USAR team, a Medic Squad, and one Ambulance supported the entire operation.*

*The victim was transported to the local Trauma Center with minor injuries. There were no injuries to fire personnel.*