



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: *October 11, 2012*
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Roof Collapses during Rain Storm

Date/Time: **October 11, 2012, 4:56 p.m.**
Location: **Parts Unlimited, 11000 block of Mulberry Ave., Fontana**
Incident: **Roof Collapse**

Summary: San Bernardino County Firefighters responded to a commercial fire alarm at a motorcycle warehouse facility in Fontana. While en route, the first arriving engine company was advised of a structural collapse of the roof.

Upon arrival, firefighters found that the roof of the 1,000 sq foot office building had collapsed, rendering the building unsafe. Firefighters quickly determined all employees were accounted for and that there were no injuries. Additional fire department resources were called to the location, including the San Bernardino County Fire Urban Search & Rescue (USAR) team. Utilizing shoring equipment, firefighters were able to stabilize the structure and surrounding area leading into the warehouse.

A heavy downpour of rain swept through the area, with rain still falling at the time of collapse. It was determined the roof collapsed due to clogged scuppers (drains) on both the roofline of the main building as well as the office area. Over a foot of water had accumulated on top of the roof prior to the collapse. The weight of the water forced the roof to collapse, sending the roof plunging 20 feet into the ceiling of the office. The impact of the water pushed file cabinets and other office supplies into the parking lot.

An office employee had just left the office to go into the warehouse when the roof collapsed, destroying the office. There were no other occupants in the office at the time of the incident.

Structural damage and content loss is estimated to be approximately \$200,000.

A friendly reminder to clear rain gutters, rooflines and household areas of debris as the seasonal changes provide additional materials for both fire and flooding potential.

Courtesy photos available at www.sbcfire.org under latest news.

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