



# NEWS RELEASE

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

*Dan Wurl  
Fire Chief*

**DATE:** *March 21, 2011*  
**CONTACT:** *Tracey Martinez, Public Information Officer*  
*(909) 387-5950, 800-426-8689, pager #3307*

## **Early Morning Blaze Destroys Apartments - Displaces Families**

**Date/Time:** **March 21, 2011, 4:25 a.m.**  
**Location:** **17200 Barbee St., Fontana**  
**Incident:** **Apartment Complex Structure Fire**

**Summary:** San Bernardino County Firefighters responded to a 2-story apartment fire on Barbee St. in Fontana. Upon arrival, the second story was fully engulfed, with flames coming through the roof and windows. Firefighters began an aggressive attack and were able to keep the fire from damaging adjacent apartment complexes to the east and west. It took 28 firefighters approximately one hour to extinguish the blaze. Firefighters were able to keep the fire from destroying the first floor apartment and garages, along with the attached house to the front of the complex.

Occupants of the three apartments and front house were able to self evacuate unharmed. Fontana Police Officers evacuated both adjacent apartment complexes. American Medical Response treated a female adult for complaints of chest pain; however she was release at the scene.

The two upstairs apartments were completely destroyed. The first floor apartment received moderate water and smoke damage. American Red Cross responded to assist the three displaced families.

The fire started in a second floor apartment. The cause and origin remain under investigation by San Bernardino County Fire Investigators.

There were no working smoke detectors in any of the apartments. San Bernardino County Fire reminds citizens to have working smoke detectors in their home and test them routinely. Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths occur in the home and a working smoke alarm can reduce one's chances of dying in a fire by nearly a half. To learn more about fire alarms and escape route planning, visit our website at [www.sbcfire.org](http://www.sbcfire.org).

###