



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Mark A. Hartwig
Fire Chief*

DATE: *Sunday, January 13, 2013*
CONTACT: *Eric Sherwin, Public Information Officer*
(909) 547-5080, 800-426-8689, pager #7346

FREEZE WREAKS HAVOC ON HIGH DESERT RESIDENTS

Date/Time: Sunday, January 13, 2013
Location: High Desert Communities of San Bernardino County
Incident: Multiple Responses to Broken Water Lines

On Sunday, January 13, 2013, the San Bernardino County Fire Department responded to multiple reports throughout the High Desert of broken water pipes.

With overnight temperatures dropping into the teens, water pipes from Adelanto to Lucerne Valley froze and cracked. As daytime temperatures began to rise, the breadth of damage slowly unfolded.

Between 08:30 A.M and 4:00 P.M, County Fire responded to forty-four separate incidents involving broken water lines with resultant flooding. These calls varied from single-family residences to apartment buildings, churches, and commercial businesses. County Fire units also responded to a commercial building in Apple Valley where a roof collapsed from water weight causing extensive damage.

No injuries were reported. Damage estimates as well as the number of displaced residents in total are still unavailable.

San Bernardino County Fire would like to remind residents to prepare for uncommonly cold weather in its communities. Know how to turn off your water in case of a flooding incident. Turning off your water in anticipation of freezing conditions is not safe, as it will affect fire sprinkler operations in occupied structures. For more information, go to www.sbcfire.org and search under Safety Preparedness, Heating & Candle Safety. For information on water line safety, check with your local water department.

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