



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mark A. Hartwig
Fire Chief

DATE: April 9, 2012
CONTACT: Tracey Martinez, Public Information Officer
(909) 387-5950, 800-426-8689, pager #3307

Residential Fire Consumes One, Injures Two Others

Date/Time: April 9, 2012, 1:53 a.m.
Location: 16500 block of Bodart Street, Hesperia
Incident: Structure Fire with Fatality

Summary: San Bernardino County firefighters responded to an early morning structure fire at the 16500 block of Bodart St. in Hesperia. Upon arrival, they found a single story home fully engulfed in flames with the roof collapsing. The elderly male resident and his mother were located in the front yard. The male subject told firefighters his wife was still inside the home. He stated he was able to pull his mother from the burning home but when he tried to re-enter the home several times to save his wife, he could not make his way back into the burning inferno.

Firefighters immediately tried to enter the home but were unable to do so due to the intensity of the fire and the roof collapsing. Firefighters kept the fire from spreading to a nearby detached garage and neighboring homes. Once the fire was extinguished, firefighters entered the home and found the 57 year old female inside deceased.

The male resident received lacerations to his body as well as smoke inhalation. His mother also had smoke inhalation and both were transported to Desert Valley Hospital in Victorville by County Fire units.

The home, estimated to be approximately 2000 square feet, is a complete loss, along with a vehicle that was parked in the attached garage. Estimated structure and content loss is \$235,000.

At this time it is unknown if there were working smoke detectors inside the residence. The peak time for home fire fatalities is between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most families are sleeping. San Bernardino County Fire remind you to changing smoke alarm batteries at least once a year and to have an escape plan and practice it often. For more information on escape planning, visit our website at www.sbcfire.org.

Sixteen firefighters were on scene. The cause of the fire is under investigation by San Bernardino County Fire Investigators with the assistance of San Bernardino County Sheriff's Arson/Bomb unit.

###