



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mark A. Hartwig
Fire Chief / Fire Warden

DATE: *June 3, 2014*
CONTACT: *Jay Hausman, Captain/Public Information Officer*
(951) 218-1925

Occupants Alerted by Smoke Detector in House Fire

Date/Time: **June 3, 2014, 5:34 a.m.**
Location: **12400 block Second Ave., Victorville**
Incident: **Structure Fire**

Summary: At approximately 5:34 a.m., San Bernardino County Fire received multiple reports of a garage and home on fire in the 12400 block of Second Ave. in the City of Victorville. A first alarm assignment was dispatched to include 4 engine companies, a truck company and a battalion chief.

The first unit arrived on scene 3 minutes after dispatch due to the close proximity of the firehouse and found an approximate 1900 sq. ft. home with an attached garage involved in heavy smoke and fire. Firefighters aggressively began to fight the garage fire and slow down the fire progression to the home, preventing the fire from breaching the entry door from garage to house. Fire resources on scene were able to confine the fire mainly to the garage although the home suffered some minor smoke damage. A vehicle inside the garage was completely destroyed by the fire.

Due to a working smoke detector, the occupants were able to exit the structure prior to the arrival of fire personnel. The outcome could have been much worse for the family as it was early in the morning and all were asleep. This fire started in the garage and it could have taken quite some time before the occupants may have known that their garage was on fire.

An estimated \$72,000 in damage occurred to the garage, content and vehicle. No injuries were reported to either firefighters or the public. San Bernardino County Fire investigators were on scene and deemed the fire to be accidental due to smoking material coming into contact with other combustible material in the garage.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department reminds you to always change out your smoke detector batteries on a rotating basis in conjunction with a special occasion i.e. time change, a birthday, or every 6 months. Have you ever heard that “chirp” in your home and couldn’t locate it? Look up and find your smoke detector, most likely the cause of that “chirp” is due to a bad battery.

###