DATE: *March 14th, 2014*
CONTACT: *Lane McGivern, LT Firefighter/Public Information Officer*
                 (760)865-9561, (760)326-2833

Early Morning Fire Damages Home

Date/Time: **Friday, March 14th, 2014, 2:29 a.m.**
Location: **500 Block of Acoma Street in Needles, Ca.**
Incident: **Residential Structure Fire**

Summary: Early Friday morning, San Bernardino County Firefighters, in the City of Needles, received reports of a house fire on Acoma Street near "B" Street. Five minutes after being initially dispatched, crews arrived on scene to find a single family residence with smoke and flames billowing from the rear of the structure.

After determining that no one was trapped inside the home, crews were able to attack the blaze and focus on limiting fire spread to the rest of the home and other exposures, including an additional residence next door. Initial firefighting efforts were hampered by downed power lines that energized a chain link fence, keeping firefighters from gaining full access to the property for a short time. Overcoming these obstacles, firefighters were able to coordinate aggressive interior and exterior operations, bringing the fire under control with no damage to the adjacent homes.

San Bernardino County Firefighters, with assistance from Mohave Valley Fire Department., remained on scene for several hours checking for hot spots and ensuring that the fire was completely out.

Investigators determined the cause of the blaze to be accidental. Items, stored in close proximity to the home water heater, ignited in the laundry room and flames quickly spread throughout the home. It was found that the residence had no working smoke detectors, allowing more time for smoke, heat, and fire to travel through the home before the two male occupants were alerted. Both occupants managed to escape from the burning home without injury.

Photos available at www.sbcfire.org

Safety Message: Smoke alarms save lives! Make sure your smoke alarms have fresh batteries and check them monthly.

<div align="center">###</div>