



## NEWS RELEASE

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

*Mark A. Hartwig  
Fire Chief*

**DATE:** February 22, 2013  
**CONTACT:** Christopher Prater, Firefighter/Paramedic/PIO  
(909) 428-7596

### **Early Morning Blaze Destroys Home**

**Date/Time:** February 22, 2013  
**Location:** 15300 block of Athol St., Fontana, CA.  
**Incident:** Early Morning Fire Destroys Home

At 3:35am on February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2013, the San Bernardino County Fire Department received reports of smoke and flames coming from the rear of a home on the 15300 block of Athol St. in Fontana. Responding units reported a large column of smoke visible from several miles out. The first on-scene fire engine reported a single story, single family residential structure that was fully involved with fire. They immediately went into a defensive fire attack, with the priority of preventing fire spread into a neighboring home that was in very close proximity of the involved structure. Fire crews were successful in preventing any damage from smoke or fire to the neighboring home. This was also part of a tactic referred to as "surround and drown". Fire crews were on scene for several hours extinguishing any and all hot spots in the damaged structure.

There were no reported injuries to any civilians or firefighters. According to Fire Investigators on scene, the cause of the fire is undetermined. The approximately 1,600 square ft home appeared to be vacant and was a total loss with an estimated value of \$100,000. The San Bernardino County Fire Department responded 3 Medic Engines, 1 Medic Truck, 2 Medic Squads, 1 Battalion Chief and 1 Fire Investigator for a total of 17 personnel. A unit from the San Bernardino County Sheriffs Department Bomb & Arson is also assisting with the investigation.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department would like to advise the public that when calling 9-1-1 to report a fire, to be prepared to give the following information:

1. The phone number you are calling from
2. Your name
3. Your address
4. The circumstances of the fire incident

As an additional reminder, please also be aware of any possible suspicious activities or persons in the area of a fire incident. You can report that information to responding personnel or to our 24 hour hotline at 1-800-47-ARSON.

#####