



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Mark Hartwig
Fire Chief*

DATE: *March 4, 2012*
CONTACT: *Jack DeJong, Captain/Public Information Officer*
800-426-8689, pager #1511

FONTANA STRUCTURE FIRE CONTAINED TO ATTIC

Date/Time: **March 4, 2012, 7:10 a.m.**
Location: **14800 block of Ceres Ave., Fontana**
Incident: **Residential Structure Fire**

San Bernardino County firefighters were successful in containing a fire to the attic of a home in the 14800 block of Ceres Ave. in Fontana. No one was home at the time but alert neighbors noticed smoke coming from the rear of the single story structure, although they couldn't verify if it was the house or something else burning. A typical response of two engine companies and a battalion chief responded for an unknown type fire. When firefighters arrived they noticed a moderate amount of smoke coming from attic vents and requested additional resources for a confirmed structure fire.

Fire crews, using thermal imaging cameras, located the fire burning in the attic above the kitchen and were able to access it by removing ceiling drywall. Care was also taken to cover furniture and appliances below the fire to prevent additional damage to belongings. The fire caused an estimated \$45,000 damage to the house while firefighters were able to save approximately \$150,000 of property and contents.

A county fire investigator found the cause to be damaged electrical wiring in the attic. A resident of the house actually noticed a smell of smoke the night before and also heard electrical arcing in the ceiling. The resident shut off circuit breakers and then went to a friend's house to spend the night.

Eighteen county firefighters responded to the incident. There were no injuries to civilians or firefighters. The county fire department would like to take this opportunity to remind residents that any home electrical problem should be thoroughly checked by a licensed professional. In addition, any possibility of a fire at a home or business should be reported to authorities right away.

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