



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Mark A. Hartwig
Fire Chief / Fire Warden*

DATE: Saturday, October 26, 2013
CONTACT: Eric Sherwin, Public Information Officer
(909) 547-5080, 800-426-8689, pager #7346

FIREFIGHTERS BATTLE LATE MORNING APARTMENT FIRE

Date/Time: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:10AM
Location: 14100 block Rodeo Drive Victorville, CA
Incident: Apartment Fire

Just after 10:00 this morning, San Bernardino County Fire Department responded to multiple reports of an explosion and fire in the second story of an apartment complex located on the 14100 block of Rodeo Drive in the City of Victorville.

The first engine arrived four minutes after dispatch and reported heavy smoke and fire from the upstairs corner of a multi-unit apartment complex. Initial efforts located three occupants outside of the apartment suffering from smoke inhalation. Subsequent tactics focused on suppressing the fire upstairs. Aggressive efforts by County Fire confined the fire to the upstairs portion of the unit and saved the three additional apartments in the building from fire damage. The fire was declared under control just twelve minutes after the arrival of the first engine company.

County Fire resources on scene included four fire engines, two truck companies, and one chief officer for a combined force of 18 personnel. Units responded from the cities of Victorville and Hesperia as well as the community of Spring Valley Lake.

One adult female and two children, the occupants of the apartment, were transported in stable condition via AMR ambulance to a local hospital for evaluation and treatment of their inhalation injuries.

Red Cross was on scene to assist the family displaced from their unit due to fire damage as well as the family from the adjoining unit which suffered smoke damage as well as a loss of electricity.

Damage is estimated at \$80,000 structural and \$15,000 in personal belongings. The cause remains under investigation through County Fire's Office of the Fire Marshall.

In this situation, the family did the right thing: They evacuated at the first sign of fire and awaited the arrival of firefighters. San Bernardino County Fire asks that all families regularly practice their EDITH drill (Exit Drills In The Home) and have a pre-determined meeting point outside of the house. For more information on EDITH, please go to www.sbcfire.org and search under "Safety Preparedness" "Home Escape Planning."

Photos are available at www.sbcfire.org under "Latest News."

###

