



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Donald W. Trapp**  
Interim Fire Chief / Fire Warden



**DATE:** *February 20, 2019*

**CONTACT:** *Jeremy Kern – Captain, Public Information Officer*  
*(760) 998-1458*

## **Firefighters Rescue Dog And Tortoise From Tunnel**

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, February 20, 2019, 12:14 pm

**Location:** 8000 block of Regal Court, Fontana

**Incident:** Animal Rescue #19-036452

**Summary:** Last Wednesday San Bernardino County firefighters responded to reports of a dog and adult male tortoise who fell into a hole. While enroute additional information was received that stated the male was out of the hole and unharmed however the dog was still trapped.

As crews arrived they found a tunnel that had been dug by the tortoise. This habitat traveled underneath a block wall, into a neighbor's property, underneath a concrete patio and ultimately another walkway. A 70-pound tortoise named Godzilla and German Shepherd named Taylor were found underground about six feet in from the entrance. It appears that the dog had brought a blanket into the tunnel resulting in the dog, blanket, and tortoise becoming wedged and entangled.

Firefighters used tools in order to remove dirt from around the animals along with coaxing the tortoise with lettuce in order to encourage the animal to move. In about 10 minutes firefighters were able to un-wedge the animals and extract them out of the tunnel. Pictured you can see the end result with both Taylor squeezing by as Godzilla crawls towards the lettuce held by our firefighter. Neither appeared to be harmed. Both animals belonged to the property owners where the tunnel started.

One engine and one paramedic squad responded for a total of 5 personnel.

###