



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALARM ALERTS RESIDENTS TO FIRE

Date/Time: *10/24/2013 / 5:47 a.m.*
Location: *7300 Block Mango Ave., Fontana*
Incident: *Residential Structure Fire*

Summary: San Bernardino County Firefighters responded to a call for a carbon monoxide alarm sounding and arrived to find a fire burning in the attic of a home in Fontana. The homeowners were awakened when their CO alarm began sounding around 4:30 a.m. They began to check the house and although they couldn't find the reason for the alarm to alert, they could smell natural gas. At that point, they decided to call the fire department for assistance.

First arriving units double checked the accuracy of the alarm with their own CO detectors and found there were dangerous levels of the odorless, colorless gas in the home. With the aid of thermal imaging cameras, they discovered the fire smoldering the attic and requested additional resources to deal with the incident. Firefighters began removing ceiling and insulation to access the stubborn fire and were able to extinguish it before any major damage was done to the house. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

This incident underscores the importance of having properly working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in your homes since these devices can detect problems well before they can be noticed by people. Also, since CO is colorless and odorless, we need the alarm to alert us to danger. When a CO alarm sounds, it is best to leave the house and call the fire department. In its initial stages, CO poisoning can cause lethargy and confusion which might cloud the judgment of a person who tries to investigate on his own. In late stages of CO poisoning, coma and death are likely! And remember, with daylight savings just a few days away, it is time to change those batteries in our alarms.