



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Second Fatal Structure Fire in Two Days

Date/Time: May 20, 2015, 12:30 p.m.
Location: 4200 block of El Mirage Road, El Mirage
Incident: Structure Fire with Fatality

Summary: Firefighters responded to a reported structure fire in El Mirage, with initial reports of a subject trapped inside. Upon firefighter arrival, they immediately conducted an interior search and found an elderly female unconscious in a back bedroom. They quickly brought her to safety and started life saving measures to no avail.

Firefighters rescued ten dogs from the burning home. Within 50 minutes, twelve San Bernardino County firefighters had the fire contained to the kitchen and living room area of the double-wide mobile home.

Prior to firefighter arrival, the male occupant smelled smoke and found the kitchen on fire. He notified his wife there was a fire and then immediately tried to extinguish the blaze utilizing a garden hose, however the fire spread too quickly and he was forced to exit the home. During this time, an adult daughter arrived at the home and located her mother in a bedroom and began administering CPR. She was quickly overcome by smoke and had to evacuate the residence.

This is the second fatality from a structure fire in the High Desert in two days. On the evening of May 18th, a male adult and his five dogs perished when a fire occurred at his home in Phelan. For more information, refer to press release at www.sbcfire.org under latest news.

Both fires remain under investigation by San Bernardino County Fire and Sheriff Investigators. The origin of today's fire is the kitchen. Both surviving occupants were treated and released at the scene. There were no working smoke detectors inside the home. Damage estimates are unknown at this time.

San Bernardino County Fire encourages residents to install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home and test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button. Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the smoke alarm and understands what to do when they hear it. Learn more about the importance of working smoke alarms and testing them monthly at www.sbcfire.org. Remember to have and practice a home escape plan, including your families meeting place. This avoids confusion in case of an emergency, and allows your family to account for each family member.

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