



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FATAL TRUCK FIRE AND COLLISION ON I-10 IN FONTANA

Incident Date/Time: Jan. 26, 3am
Location: I-10 westbound near Citrus off ramp
Type: Fatal tractor-trailer fire

A refrigerated semi truck carrying frozen chickens collided with a large freeway signpost early Monday morning, leading to a fire that spread into the wash adjacent the freeway and leaving a large debris field across several lanes of traffic. The driver of the semi died in the incident. Several other vehicles were ultimately involved, but there were no other injuries reported and no persons were transported to the hospital.

First-arriving County Fire crews from Battalion 1 in Fontana arrived shortly after 3am to find the truck cab and part of the trailer already engulfed in flames; the truck had split the guardrail and crashed into the large-diameter Citrus Ave. exit signpost. Just ahead of the fire, a freeway light standard was found lying across several lanes of westbound traffic. Still further ahead, several other cars were off the roadway, having sustained minor to moderate damage themselves. The semi was ultimately completely destroyed.

Crews attacked the fire while simultaneously attempting to rescue the driver of the truck and checking on injuries to the other parties involved. The force of the impact to the truck had launched nearly all its contents across the road or into the wash next to the freeway, while fire spread into the grass and towards adjacent houses. Firefighters were able to get a knockdown on the fire and stop the threat of spread in just under 20 minutes. Water was shuttled into the scene to assist with mop up and eliminate any threat of re-start.

As of the writing of this release, the exact sequence of events and cause of the fire and collisions is still under investigation by CHP and San Bernardino County Coroner. All aspects of driver identification are also still under investigation.

A total of 16 SBCoFD firefighters, plus crews from American Medical Response, Fontana Police and CHP, responded to the incident.

Per CHP the freeway was closed to westbound traffic at Sierra Ave. for investigation. By 5:30am two lanes were re-opened.

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