NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Chief

DATE: ***July 27, 2012***
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Bonita Falls Cliff Rescue Successful

Date/Time: **July 27, 2012, 5:54 p.m.**
Location: **Bonita Falls, Lytle Creek**
Incident: **Cliff Rescue**

Summary: At about 5:54 p.m., units from the San Bernardino County Fire Department and U.S. Forest Service responded to a report of an injured rock climber at Bonita Falls in the Lytle Creek area. Bonita Falls is a popular spot for hikers and rock climbers.

San Bernardino County Fire Department responded with two Paramedic engines, a heavy rescue company and a chief officer. The U.S. Forest service responded with two engines and two chief officers. In addition, San Bernardino County Sheriff's rescue helicopter and AMR ambulance also responded.

The injured climber was at the top end of the falls and was attempting a difficult climb when she lost her grip and fell approximately 20 ft. onto a cliff ledge. She sustained serious injuries and county fire department paramedics administered care to the patient on the ledge while rescue team members and Forest Service personnel worked on getting rescue equipment approximately 1 mile over boulders, logs and nearly vertical inclines to reach the victim.

Due to high winds, the Sheriff's helicopter was unable to affect a rescue from the helicopter. A rope rescue operation was set up, the victim lowered from the ledge and hiked out to the waiting Sheriff's helicopter to transport the patient to a local hospital.

Your San Bernardino County Fire Department reminds you to always use marked and safe hiking paths in our local forest areas and if rock climbing, use proper safety equipment while not exceeding your experience level. A slight slip in many of these areas can result in serious injury or death.

Courtesy photos are available at www.sbcfire.org under latest news.

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