



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### ***Smoke Detector saves a family in one of two fires over the weekend***

San Bernardino County Firefighters had their hands full over the weekend in the City of Victorville with two structure fires that coincidentally were both started by clothes dryers. One family was awakened by their smoke detector and fled the residence before they were overcome by smoke.

The first fire was reported at 7:03 p.m. at a residence in the 15000 block of Luna Rd on Friday. Due to only a 4-minute response by the first in Engine Company the fire was stopped with minimal damage to the structure. Three engine companies, one ladder truck and a battalion chief responded to the early evening fire. One civilian was injured and treated for smoke inhalation. Upon investigation by fire investigators, it was determined that the fire began in the lint trap of the home's dryer.

The second fire was reported on the City's west side in the 13000 block of Red Willow Way at 12:54 in the early morning hours of Sunday. Again, three engine companies, one ladder truck and a Battalion chief responded. At arrival the first companies found black smoke coming from the front door. Due to an aggressive attack by the fire crews entering the residence they were able to reach the fire in the laundry room and knock the fire down resulting in minimal damage to the structure. The fire had smoldered for some time, putting off a lot of heat, but it wasn't until the smoke detectors awakened the resident that she knew there was a fire in her home. She grabbed her newborn child and exited the dwelling, and called 911 from a neighbor's house. Mother and child are doing well and staying with family out of the area.

***Safety message: San Bernardino County Fire Department recommends that homeowners check the lint traps of their dryers monthly. This also includes under the dryer, the ventilation hose and the trap for any foreign material or loose objects that may catch on fire.***