



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: February 2, 2019
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Firefighters and Deputies Rescue Two from Wash

Date/Time: Saturday, February 2, 2019, 4:06 pm
Location: N Palm / Institution Rd, San Bernardino
Incident: Swift Water Rescue #19-023387

Summary: Just after 4 pm this afternoon, San Bernardino County Fire responded to reports of multiple vehicles stuck in a wash near the intersection of North Palm and Institution Road in the city of San Bernardino. Ultimately the incident was elevated to a full swift water rescue response. This brought with it additional firefighters, equipment, and apparatus specifically trained and outfitted to handle this type of rescue.

As firefighters arrived, a large area of the road was found to be inundated in waist-high moving water with several vehicles stuck. As waters began to rise, two subjects became trapped on an island in the middle of the water flow.

With flood waters continuing to rise and increase in velocity, the decision was made to insert specialized #firefighters and San Bernardino County #Sheriffs #deputies who are trained in swift water rescue to make contact with the trapped subjects. The two victims were found to be uninjured though one appeared to be suffering the effects of the wet cold environment. Due to the change in conditions and continued sustained rainfall, a secondary plan was executed which included the use of a heavy equipment loader to extract the victims as well as the 4-person rescue team. All parties and rescuers were safely removed from the wash onto dry ground where they were then evaluated by firefighter / paramedics.

Two engines, one dozer, one swift water rescue, one safety officer, and one battalion chief, totaling 15 personnel responded from the County. There were no injuries to firefighters. Both victims declined transport.

River levels can rise and fall with little to no warning. Heavy rainfall can cause normally dry washes and riverbeds to become raging torrents in a very short amount of time and it only takes as little as 12 inches of moving water to move a vehicle. Never cross a road that you can't see due to it being covered by water, remember, "Turn Around, Don't Drown."

The new San Bernardino County Office of Emergency Services app, "Ready SB", provides residents with multiple resources that will assist them in preparing for a disaster such as flooding. Ready SB is now available as a free download from the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store and can immediately help residents prepare themselves for emergencies.

To find your closest sandbag location and other information on storm preparation check out the #SBCoFD website at www.sbcfire.org. Check the National Weather Service at www.weather.gov to see current and upcoming weather events.

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