



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Chief / Fire Warden*

DATE: *October 19, 2013*
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Worker Falls 100ft Down Mountainside

Date/Time: **October 18, 2013, 4:23 p.m.**
Location: **Near Hwy 138 & Hwy 2, Phelan**
Incident: **Mountain Top Technical Rescue**

Summary: At 4:23 p.m. Friday afternoon, San Bernardino County Fire Crews responded to a report of an injured worker near a cell tower site located on the mountain top above the intersection of Hwy. 2 and Hwy. 138. Upon arrival, fellow co-workers led firefighters to the accident site where they found a construction worker 100 feet down a steep incline with severe injuries. The co-workers stated that the patient was working with a jack hammer near the edge, struck a rock, launching him down the steep embankment.

The worker was still awake and able to communicate to rescue crews but was inaccessible due to his precarious location on the steep hill. The Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team was requested due to the technical nature of the incident along with 5 additional County Fire units and the Sheriff's Air Rescue Helicopter. The worker was removed from his perch by the USAR Team using rope rescue techniques and transported to a local hospital for treatment.

The Urban Search and Rescue Team is one of four highly specialized teams spread throughout the county who train countless hours and carry out the most complicated of rescues when requested. The USAR unit that responded (Rescue 304) to this incident is stationed in the City of Hesperia at Fire Station 304. This unit covers the expansive high desert region and is classified as a Type 1 Heavy Rescue, which is the highest typing in the rescue community. Rescue 304 is part of the California Regional Urban Search and Rescue Taskforce #6.

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