



NEWS RELEASE

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DATE: *September 23, 2012*
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Fire Damages Commercial Building in Fontana

Date/Time: 09/23/12, 3:38 a.m.
Location: 16300 block of Merrill Ave. Fontana
Incident: Commercial Structure Fire

Summary: An early morning fire on Sunday damaged a commercial building in the city of Fontana. A passerby noticed smoke and flames from a smog and tire shop at the corner of Merrill and Oleander Avenue and reported the incident to the fire department. County firefighters were on scene in less than 5 minutes and found that an exterior fire involving tires and debris had extended into the building.

Firefighters knocked down the exterior fire and also made entry into the business to locate and extinguish the spreading flames. Most of the damage was to the smog shop and fortunately, fire crews were able to control the fire before it spread to the other business that was heavily stocked with tires. The fire was declared under control within 15 minutes and firefighters remained on scene for 2 hours to extinguish hot spots.

Eighteen firefighters from the San Bernardino County Fire Department responded to the incident. The likely cause was determined to be an electrical malfunction on the outside of the building. Although damage to building and contents was estimated at \$25,000, firefighters were able to save over \$200,000 worth of the remaining structure, materials, and equipment.

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