



# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DATE:** January 17, 2019  
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## ***County Firefighters Rescue Victim From Vehicle Accident In Flood Control***

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 1:11am  
**Location:** West bound 10 fwy west of Sierra, Fontana  
**Incident:** Swift Water Rescue #19-011557

**Summary:** At 1:11 this morning, San Bernardino County Fire responded to reports of a traffic accident on Interstate 10 west of Sierra Ave in the city of Fontana. CHP arrived on scene and reported a single vehicle spinout into a flood control channel with water up to the doors of the vehicle. Additional resources were assigned for a swift water rescue response. Due to the rain event two swift water rescue specialist were staffed in the area to augment the on-duty rescue crews.

The first arriving engine company reported a single vehicle located in a 15-foot deep flood control channel. The vehicle was found to be on its wheels with one occupant, the driver. Upon verbal contact with the driver she was found to be uninjured but unable to exit the vehicle due to the fast water flow and flood control walls. Firefighters were able to lower a ladder down to the vehicle and make contact with the driver. She was placed in safety gear, removed from the vehicle and assisted up the ladder onto dry ground without incident. The rescue was completed in approximately 15 minutes.

Two engines, one heavy rescue, one chief officer, one paramedic squad, and two swift water technicians from Special Operations were assigned to the incident for a total of 16 firefighters.

All other incident information, cause, and investigation will be handled by the California Highway Patrol.

All San Bernardino County firefighters receive basic swift water rescue training, and well over 100 county firefighters are trained in advanced swift water rescue skills. Swift water rescue personnel have the ability to perform land-based swift water rescues, in which rescuers work from stream banks, bridges, dry land locations, and water rescue systems in which rescue personnel enter the water.

Nearly all of San Bernardino County Fire's (#SBCoFD) first-response engines, ambulances, squads, and rescue units are equipped with swift-water rescue gear, which includes dry-suits, throw bags, personal flotation devices, and other rescue equipment. In addition, inflatable rescue boats, line guns, (which can propel rescue ropes over long distances), and other types of swift-water rescue gear are positioned throughout the county for rapid deployment, especially around streams where heavy rains can create deep, fast moving currents.

When heavy rain has been forecast – or when heavy, steady rain is falling – monitor the news, websites and social media sites for updated weather conditions. The phrasing meteorologists use is important; a **Flood Watch** means flooding is possible in your area; **Flood Warning** means flooding in your area is already occurring or is imminent, and **Flash Flood** is sudden violent flooding. Flash floods often come up quickly during heavy rain.

Never cross a road that you can't see due to it being covered by water, remember, "Turn Around, Don't Drown."

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