



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Chief / Fire Warden*

DATE: *Friday, September 6, 2013*
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STORAGE FACILITY BURNS

Date/Time: 9/6/2013 4:24pm
Location: 12176 Locust St. Victorville, CA
Incident: Commercial Structure Fire

Summary:

This afternoon at 4:25pm, several reports of a fire coming from Stor-America, a self-storage complex, on Locust Street were received by the San Bernardino County Fire Department. The onsite manager states he had been alerted to the problem by a customer who had seen smoke coming from the 25-unit building. The manager found three of their small 5x5 and 5x10 foot units bellowing smoke, and he immediately called 911.

The first County Fire unit, ME301 from Hesperia, arrived 6 minutes later and reported 6-10 various sized units emitting heavy smoke. As the firefighters began making access into the storage units, they were faced with the challenge of cutting through the rollup doors and their locking mechanisms to get to the significant fire inside. Once access was made, the fire was extinguished within a few minutes. In all, 12 units ranging in size from 5x5ft to 10x15 sustained both structural and content damage. The contents of five had significant losses.

Seven San Bernardino County Fire Units from Victorville, Hesperia, and Spring Valley Lake contributed to the quick extinguishment of this fire. The manager stated after the fire that there had been a similar fire in the San Gabriel Valley recently. The whole building housing dozens of storage units had been a complete loss. Through cooperative automatic aid agreements which the three communities use through County Fire, resources were quickly on scene and prevented greater loss to the personal property contained in all of the storage units.

There were no injuries to firefighters or civilians. Damage estimate was between \$50,000 to \$100,000 dollars. The cause of the fire remains under investigation at the time of this release.

Remember: While you are driving and Emergency Vehicles are approaching with their lights and sirens in operation: Pull to the right and stop until they have passed.

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