



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: July 1, 2015
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Lightning Strike Fire Threatens Home

Date/Time: July 1, 2015 at 1248 a.m.
Location: 1400 Block of Third St. Needles, Ca.
Incident: Vegetation Fire

Summary: Shortly after midnight, Paramedic Engine 31 serving Needles was investigating a report of power lines down. While driving around the block, the crew noticed what appeared to be a fire on a hill approximately ½ mile away. When the crew arrived on scene, they found a large area of hillside vegetation and a treehouse on fire. The flames were impinging on a home and there was a power line down in the driveway. Crews immediately attacked the fire keeping a safe distance from the power line that had been severed by a lightning strike. After the crew had alleviated the threat to the home, they aggressively attacked the vegetation fire, keeping it from running across the hillside.

In all, 12 firefighters responded including 3 Engines, a Brush Patrol, and 2 Battalion Chiefs including an Engine and a Battalion Chief from Mohave Valley Fire Department. Firefighters controlled the fire in about 18 minutes after their arrival. There were no injuries to firefighters or the public during the incident. A “Life Hazard Alert” was broadcast over the radio to alert all firefighters of the downed power line.

At the time of the fire, a husband and wife were asleep in the home and reported hearing the thunder/lightning strike. There were multiple storm cells traveling through the area with a large amount of lightning activity. In addition, firefighters were met with gusty winds and driving rain associated with those cells.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department would like to remind its residents to NEVER approach downed power lines as they can be deadly. If you encounter a downed power line, call 911 immediately and keep yourself and others away from the danger. For more information and safety tips, go to www.sbcfire.org.

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