



NEWS RELEASE

Mark A. Hartwig
Fire Chief / Fire Warden

DATE: *February 27, 2014*
CONTACT: *Christopher Prater, Firefighter/Public Information Officer*
(714) 319-7316

FIRST OF TWO WINTER STORMS HITS SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

San Bernardino, California – The first of two winter storms have arrived in San Bernardino County, expected to bring rain and snow to all regions of the county. Estimated rain fall could reach up to 4 inches with snow fall reaching 2 – 4 feet in the mountains over 7,000 ft. The National Weather Service is advising the brunt of the storm will hit San Bernardino County early Friday morning with steady rain, thru Saturday. Winds are expected to be out of the South/Southwest at 20 – 40 mph with gusts up to 70 mph.

A flash flood watch has been issued by the National Weather Service and is currently in effect in San Bernardino County until Saturday afternoon. With episodes of moderate to heavy rain forecasted over the next 2 days, the San Bernardino County Fire Department has staffed Swift Water Rescue Units throughout the County. These specially trained units have extra technical equipment and specially trained personnel specifically designed for swift water and flood water rescues.

Multiple road closures are expected throughout the weekend. A list of these closures can be found on the California Highway Patrol Website and the San Bernardino County Department of Public Works website. This list will also include areas with snow chain requirements.

Sand bags are being made available to the public for pick-up at selected San Bernardino County Fire Stations. A list of these fire station locations is available at www.sbcfire.org.

During the winter storm season, the San Bernardino County Fire Department reminds motorists to use extreme caution when driving in rain and/or snow. Please slow down to a safe driving speed for the conditions. Always heed to road closures and use snow chains when required. Never cross a road that you can't see due to it being covered by water. It only takes 2 feet of flowing water to move a vehicle. It is always safest to "Turn Around, Don't Drown" when roads are flooded.

###