



## NEWS RELEASE

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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**DATE:** *March 27, 2013*  
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### *Separate Residential Fires Break Out Minutes Apart*

On March 27, 2013 at 8:45 p.m. a first alarm structure fire assignment was dispatched by the San Bernardino County Communications Center for a house fire in the 14200 block of Indian Creek Place in the City of Victorville. As units arrived on scene of the original dispatched fire, another alarm was sounded for a second residential structure fire in the 12800 block of Brookdale St, also in the City of Victorville just miles apart.

Arriving on scene to the Indian Creek fire, the first-in engine found heavy smoke and fire coming from a second story bedroom. A quick attack was made on the fire along with the truck company going up on the roof to cut holes to ventilate the heat and toxic gases. It took San Bernardino County Fire units approximately 10 minutes to bring the fire under control. A thorough primary search was made during fire attack and it was found that all occupants had made it out safely without any injuries. Damage was valued at approximately \$60,000 to the approximately \$180,000 home.

1 Chief Officer along with 4 engine companies and a truck company were dispatched to the Indian Creek fire. Those resources all came from the City of Victorville. The second fire required 1 Chief Officer and 3 engine companies that came from surrounding areas including The City of Hesperia, Oak Hills, and a mutual aid assist from the Apple Valley Fire Department.

Upon arriving at the second fire, named the "Brookdale" incident, the first in engine reported heavy black smoke from an upstairs window of a two-story home. A charged hose line was advanced up the interior stairwell to attack the fire. Firefighters made a quick stop on the fire, thus preventing major damage to the home. The home, valued at approximately \$140,000, suffered major damage to the laundry room as well as heavy smoke damage to the upstairs living areas. Damage was valued at approximately \$10,000.

While the cause of the Indian Creek fire is under investigation at the present time, the Brookdale fire was investigated and determined to be clothes left piled on top of a working dryer. The dryer caused the ignition of those clothes which extended through the laundry room and hallway of the residence. The Red Cross was notified but residents declined stating they would stay with local family.

**Safety Message:** Be vigilant when using your washing machine and dryer. Remember to clean the lint traps regularly, keep combustible materials away from units that are working as well as do not leave them unattended.