



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sultana Pallet Fire

Date/Time: May 4, 2013 / 3:27 PM
Location: 8395 Sultana Avenue Fontana, CA
Incident: Commercial Structure Fire

Summary:

A fire destroyed a pallet manufacturing and storage yard in Fontana, California. The fire briefly threatened surrounding homes and businesses. Efforts to extinguish the blaze were complicated by the large volume of pallets stored on site, 15-20 mph winds, and the low relative humidity. The 5 Alarm fire took approximately 3 hours to contain. The fire destroyed structures, vehicles, tractor/trailers, forklifts, and approximately 2 acres of pallets. The cause of the fire is under investigation, but investigators estimate the property loss at \$1 million dollars.

At 3:25 PM the San Bernardino County Fire Communications Center received a cellular phone call reporting, "The Pallet Yard is on fire." Six minutes later, Medic Engine 73 from the San Bernardino County Fire Department arrived on scene and gave a report on the condition of the fire. By 6:36 PM the fire was contained. At 7:36, the incident commander Battalion Chief Kathleen Opliger, began to release units from the scene. Units remained on scene throughout the night and the following day to insure the fire was completely out.

It took 75 members of the San Bernardino County Fire Department: including 10 Engines Companies, 2 Truck Companies, a hand crew, and bulldozer to fight the fire. As well as 66 members from neighboring cities providing automatic aid, including: Rancho Cucamonga Fire District, Ontario FD, San Bernardino City FD, Rialto FD, Colton FD, Chino Independent Fire District, Loma Linda FD, Upland FD, Redlands FD, and the San Manual FD. Fontana Water District, Southern California Gas Company, and Southern California Edison aided fire crews by controlling utilities at the scene. The Fontana Police Dept and San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office shut down Arrow Blvd, Sultana Ave and Lime Ave to traffic; to keep the public safely aware from the fire and suppression efforts.

High winds and low humidity drastically increase fire danger. Seemingly everyday activities at your home or business can have unforeseen outcomes. Activities such as weed abatement, welding, grinding, and outdoor cooking require special considerations on Red Flag days. The San Bernardino County Fire Dept encourages everyone to be fire safe during Red Flag days.

