



## NEWS RELEASE

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

*Mark A. Hartwig  
Fire Chief / Fire Warden*

**DATE:** *Friday, August 30, 2013*  
**CONTACT:** *Eric Sherwin, Public Information Officer*  
*(909) 547-5080, 800-426-8689, pager #7346*

### **FIREFIGHTERS RESCUE DRIVER FROM FLASH FLOOD**

**Date/Time:** Thursday, August 29, 2013 9:31 PM  
**Location:** Needles Highway north of Interstate-40 Needles, CA  
**Incident:** Swiftwater Rescue

Shortly after 9:30PM, San Bernardino County Fire Department responded to the report of a driver trapped in a vehicle in rising flood waters on Needles Highway north of Interstate 40 in the City of Needles, CA.

Rescuers arrived on scene and located a pickup truck stranded in a wash in the middle of an approximate 100-foot wide flash flood. Water was estimated at three feet deep and moving at 16MPH making access to the truck extremely hazardous. The driver, an adult male, was conscious and able to follow the commands of fire personnel.

With downstream rescuers placed as a contingency, firefighters waited for flood waters to subside then utilized a shallow water crossing rescue technique that allowed them to physically remove the victim from his vehicle and ultimately extricate him from the moving water.

There were no injuries to either firefighters or the civilian.

The victim stated that he had driven through two previously washed out sections of the highway prior to becoming trapped in this crossing.

On Monday, August 26, County Fire responded to a similar incident in which another driver attempted to cross a flooded road outside of Needles. The female was subsequently located deceased in her vehicle having been carried over two miles downstream!

San Bernardino County Fire reminds citizens that ***it is never safe to cross roads covered by water***. Flowing water can undermine roadways and/or hide debris that can trap vehicles. Roads and intersections that are well-known to local residents can deteriorate rapidly under the influence of moving water and become fatally dangerous. "Turn Around. Don't Drown!"

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