



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mark A. Hartwig
Fire Chief / Fire Warden

DATE: *January 9, 2014*
CONTACT: *Michael Snow, Public Information Officer*
(760) 953-3506

Combustibles near Water Heater Causes Fire

On January 9, 2014 at 6:40 p.m., a first-alarm structure fire assignment was dispatched by the San Bernardino County Communications Center for a house fire in the Town of Yucca Valley in the 6900 block of La Habra Street. Reports of a home on fire involving a garage were made. A total of 18 personnel from four engines, three ambulances, and a Battalion Chief responded to this incident.

Upon arriving on scene three minutes after dispatch, the first-in engine found smoke coming from the front of the residence of an approximately 1200 sq.ft. home. Crews coordinated a safe, but aggressive attack to keep the damage to the structure to a minimum. It took personnel approximately 12 minutes to bring the fire under control.

There were no injuries to either civilian or firefighters reported. The damage to the residence was listed at approximately \$12,000 with approximately \$6,500 to personal belongings. Residents were able to make arrangements with friends and family for alternative living until the structure can be repaired.

The occupants had stated they noticed smoke filling the home and investigated it to find a fire in the two-car attached garage near the water heater. Fire officials were able to determine the point of origin at the water heater as a result of combustibles being stacked around the pilot/burner. Flames quickly spread to surrounding materials; however, the fire was contained to the garage area without damage to the main living quarters.

Safety Message: The San Bernardino County Fire Department reminds the public to use precaution when storing personal items near appliances in the home. Appliances in the home such as water heaters, kitchen appliances, and electrical panels should be kept clear of debris and other items that are combustible. A minimum of 18 inches of clearance should be maintained. Always make sure your appliances are in good operational order. If you suspect a problem, you can refer to Southern California Edison, the Gas Company, or the manufacturer of the appliance for further assistance.