



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mark A. Hartwig
Fire Chief / Fire Warden

DATE: July 02, 2016
CONTACT: Jeremy Kern, Captain / Public Information Officer
(623) 335-0930

Brush Fire Destroys Multiple Homes / Injures Firefighters

Date/Time: Saturday, July 2, 2016 1:12 p.m.
Location: Kendall Dr. Near Little Mountain
Incident: Brush Fire
Acreage: 8.7
Containment: 100%

San Bernardino, CA- Shortly after 1:00pm, San Bernardino County Fire received numerous reports of a vegetation fire on Kendall Drive near Little Mountain in the City of San Bernardino. Medic Engine 227 arrived shortly after dispatch to find a 1/2 acre brush fire in light to medium fuels traveling up slope with a rapid rate of spread and immediate structure threat. That engine company immediately requested additional units to the incident. Ultimately a 3 alarm assignment was dispatched which brought numerous engine companies from the Inland Empire from county fire as well as our cooperators. Firefighters initial priority was to establish structure defense at the top of the hillside. Crews deployed to Skylark Drive and Edgerton west of Pershing Avenue which was established as a mandatory evacuation. Once there hose lines were deployed onto the approaching flame front to protect the homes. County Fire also deployed Old Cajon Crew 6-1 and multiple San Bernardino County Sheriff / Fire inmate crews at the origin to establish direct line construction to support hose lays and contain the fire.

A total of 6 Chief Officers, 12 Paramedic Engines, 9 Brush Engines, 3 Trucks, 2 inmate crews, Old Cajon Crew 6-1, 7 Water Tenders, and 1 patrol assisted in protecting homes and controlling the fire. Assisting Agencies included Redlands, Loma Linda, Rialto, CalFire BDU, USFS, San Manuel, and Colton.

Unfortunately 4 homes were a complete loss with 1 home sustaining damage. Multiple homes in the area were saved due to the quick action of the initial attack engines. Three County Firefighters sustained smoke and heat related injuries and were transported for evaluation, along with one civilian smoke inhalation. The cause is currently under investigation by the Office of the Fire Marshal and San Bernardino Police Department. Information will be released as it becomes available during the investigation.

County Fire will remain on scene throughout the evening reinforcing containment lines and mopping up.

County Fire would like to remind homeowners that the time now is to clear your property of dead and downed vegetation. Create a defensible space that will allow your firefighters to protect your home in the event of a wildfire.