



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Burns in River bottom During High Wind Event

At approximately 4:01 p.m. this afternoon, the San Bernardino County Communications Center received multiple calls of a possible fire in the river bottom near Sixth St. and "E" St. in the City of Victorville. Due to a Santa Ana wind event that the High Desert was under, three engines, one water tender, and a Chief Officer were dispatched.

The first units arrived approximately five minutes after dispatched and worked their way into the river bottom to find an area of vegetation and trees on fire being pushed by erratic winds. With a quick attack on the fire by the brush engines, the fire was kept in check and was not allowed to spread to surrounding vegetation near the original fire.

Several homeless encampments were seen in the area, all with either smoldering campfires or pits used with cold coals in them. Through the investigation it was deemed the fire started from an open campfire which appeared to be actively being used to cook food.

Due to the known Red Flag event, the San Bernardino County Fire Department has up staffed the wind prone areas, to include the high desert communities it serves. This up staffing allowed a swift response from personnel who were staged and ready to deploy at a moment's notice.

Safety message: As we just changed our clocks forward for Daylight savings time the San Bernardino County Fire Department wants to remind you that it is a good habit to change your batteries in your smoke detectors as you change those clocks forward. The smoke detector in your home can be your first alarm to get you and your family to safety if a fire breaks out.

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