



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Donald W. Trapp
Interim Fire Chief / Fire Warden



DATE: August 12, 2019
CONTACT: Mike McClintock, Battalion Chief Division 4
(760) 228-6380, (909) 677-7413 mobile

“Barstow Fire” in Lucerne Valley Fire Burns 685 Acres

Date/Time: 8/11/2019 10:54 am
Location: Highway 247 & Lucerne Road, Lucerne Valley
Incident: Vegetation Fire

Summary: At 10:54am San Bernardino County Fire (SBCoFD) crews were dispatched to a reported vegetation fire in the area of Highway 247 & Lucerne Road in Lucerne Valley. When crews arrived in the area they found a 3-acre vegetation fire in light fuels, with difficult access and no structures threatened. The fire was found to be in San Bernardino Local Responsibility Area (LRA), adjacent to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land. BLM crews also responded due to the threat to their lands and assisted #SBCoFD in initial firefighting efforts.

The incident commander quickly requested a San Bernardino County Sheriff Helicopter to assist in suppression, additional type 3 Engines, a SBCoFD dozer & hand crews. Crews engaged in fire attack, making access and starting hose lays to contain the fires spread. Due to the steep terrain, windy conditions & dry grasses the fire continued to spread throughout the afternoon and into the evening. By nightfall the fire had spread to more than 450 acres. Crews remained on the scene throughout the night to monitor the fire, work on containment, suppression and line construction.

San Bernardino County Sheriff Department utilized (2) helicopters for their water dropping capabilities, utilizing portable tanks for a water source. This asset helped limit the fires spread, provided drops in inaccessible areas and intelligence on the fire from the sky. Thank you to our partners in public safety on the assistance. Cooperator agencies assisted in initial attack included; Bureau of Land Management, Cal-Fire, Apple Valley Fire Department, Victorville Fire Department and Newberry Springs Fire Department. Thank you to our cooperators for their assistance.

As the second operational period started, (5) Type 3 engines, (4) water tenders & a BLM response were summoned to work on containment and suppression. Due to both jurisdictions having land effected, BLM and SBCoFD remained in unified command throughout the day.

Total acreage is 670 acres in LRA, with 15 acres in BLM jurisdiction. The fires cause is under investigation by SBCoFD Office of the Fire Marshall's office. No structures were threatened or damaged. No injuries to firefighters or civilians were reported as well. Crews will continue to monitor the burn area through the day to watch for hot spots.

#SBCoFD responded with (1) Type-1 engine, (7) brush engines, (1) bulldozer, (2) hand crews, (5) water tenders, (3) chief officers, (1) fire investigator, (1) fire mechanic & a team from our supply warehouse to support the fire. While local fire crews were committed, other SBCoFD engines were moved into vacant stations to ensure seamless fire and EMS coverage. SBCoFD warehouse personnel also provided logistical support, bringing food, water & supplies to the fire.

###