



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mark A. Hartwig
Fire Chief

DATE: *June 6, 2013*
CONTACT: *Jack DeJong – Captain/PIO*
800-426-8689, pager #1511

Drowning Victim Pulled from Silver Lakes

Date/Time: **June 5, 2013, 6:44 p.m.**
Location: **Silver Lakes, Helendale**
Incident: **Drowning**

Summary: Firefighters attempts to resuscitate an adult drowning victim after he was pulled from the waters | of Silver Lakes in Helendale proved futile on Wednesday evening, but not without the heroic efforts of local citizens.

The incident occurred in the North Beach area of Silver Lakes, which is a swimming section of the lake, and where a family had gathered that day to enjoy the warm weather. At some point during their outing, the family noticed one of their members, a 62 year old male, was missing and they frantically began a search for him in the waters. An off-duty fire Captain from the Barstow Fire Department, along with other citizens, heard the commotion and came over to assist. These citizens swam out to a floating dock, approximately 50' from shore, and found the victim at the bottom of the lake in 9' of water. They were able to pull the man out of the water and onto the dock and began CPR.

Firefighter/Paramedics from County Fire station 4 were on scene within minutes of dispatch and with proper safety gear, one of the crew swam out to the dock to coordinate rescue efforts. Other local citizens used their boat to ferry the other firefighters to the dock and ultimately to bring the victim back to shore to await the arrival of the ambulance. Sadly, despite the efforts of firefighters and citizens, the victim was pronounced dead at a local hospital.

Coincidentally, the couple that assisted firefighters with their boat was the same ones that had won a "Dinner With The Firefighters" offered by the local Soroptomists. They were scheduled to enjoy that dinner on August 7th along with their 7 grandchildren. Their assistance during the rescue, and the efforts of the Barstow Fire Captain and other citizens, were greatly appreciated by firefighters.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to remind the community of the need to be safety conscious when near any body of water, be it a lake, beach, or swimming pool. A responsible adult should always be on the lookout for young ones and adults alike and be ready to offer assistance when needed. Any individuals that have been drinking should not enter the water as their perception of what may be safe and of their own abilities is greatly reduced.

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