



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: Sunday, July 29, 2012
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Fire in Telephone Central Office knocks out Phone Service

Date/Time: Sunday, July 29, 2012 6:38pm
Location: AT&T Central Telephone Office, 72000 Block of Baker Blvd., Baker CA
Incident: Fire in Telephone Central Office

Summary: At Approximately 6:38 pm, firefighters from the San Bernardino County Fire Department responded to a reported fire at the AT&T Central Telephone Office in Baker, California. First arriving firefighters from Station 53 in Baker, CA found smoke coming from several of the rooftop air conditioning units. Firefighters quickly shut down power to the building and forced entry into the structure where they found heavy smoke conditions on the interior of the building along with fire to several batteries in a rack system which served as a back-up battery system for the Telephone Central Office.

San Bernardino County Firefighters quickly extinguished the fire and had the fire under control within 20 minutes. County Firefighters were assisted by the Baker Community Services District and the Marine Corp Logistics Base (MCLB) Firefighters. Unfortunately, telephone services to Baker and nearby communities were knocked out. The exact extent of the outage is still being determined. According to AT&T representatives "telephone services could be affected until sometime late tomorrow 7/30/12. AT&T personnel are working diligently to restore telephone service".

There were no injuries to civilians or firefighters. Damage estimates are unknown at this time as damage assessments are underway by AT&T personnel. Cause of the fire is accidental in nature related to the electrical and mechanical equipment contained in the building.

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