



# NEWS RELEASE

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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## *Chimney Catches Fire*

Neighbors across from a home in the 26000 block of Apache Trail in Rim Forest noted “smoke coming from the house” at approximately 08:37 a.m., on Sunday morning and notified the San Bernardino County Communications Center via 9-1-1. The neighbors stated the chimney was on fire, and embers were dropping onto the roof of the residence.

Upon arrival, firefighters found that the neighbors had notified the affected homeowner, and all had been evacuated. The chimney was burning internally – possibly from a buildup of soot and/or debris that had accumulated from past use, or an extended period of disuse.

Firefighters were able to quickly extinguish the fire, and check to assure there was no further extension of the fire to the surrounding structural members or roofing materials. One civilian was treated for minor injuries and released at the scene.

While we are likely not through with warm weather yet this season, cold weather is sneaking in on us, along with the need for home heating. Unfortunately, accidents involving fireplaces and heating equipment are a major cause of preventable home fires. County Fire urges county residents to keep safe while they keep warm.

**Have your chimney inspected and cleaned by a professional before each heating season and have it cleaned regularly**

County Fire also reminds you to make sure your home is equipped with working smoke detectors and fire extinguishers. Don’t forget to install, test, and maintain these devices in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. **An approved smoke detector with fresh batteries doubles your chances of surviving a fire in your home!**

For additional winter safety tips, please visit our website at [www.sbcfire.org](http://www.sbcfire.org).

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