



## NEWS RELEASE

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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### *Vehicle into a Structure Causes Major Injuries and Power Outage*

On April 9, 2013 at 10:14 a.m., the San Bernardino County Communications Center received calls reporting a vehicle into a house, with injuries to the driver at the 14100 block of Rodeo, Victorville. A paramedic-engine, a truck company, and a heavy-rescue from San Bernardino County Fire Department, along with an ambulance from American Medical Response were immediately dispatched to the incident.

Upon arriving on scene several minutes after dispatch, the first-in engine found that a full size pick-up truck with major damage had crashed through the corner of an apartment building. The vehicle had penetrated the building approximately 5 feet, with the driver still trapped behind the steering wheel.

To complicate matters, a major electrical vault owned by Southern California Edison was knocked off its foundation during the collision. Fire department crews determined the vault to still be energized despite its displacement. This became an issue to firefighters, as the vault needed to be de-energized prior to any further actions. It was noted that power was lost to specific sections of the City of Victorville as a result.

Once SCE arrived they were able to mitigate the issue which allowed the specialized Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team to use their skills and equipment to shore up the building making it safe to remove the vehicle.

Fire department USAR personnel secured the building for safety and prevent further collapse. The personnel were then able to extricate the driver and provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) care with the paramedics on scene. Due to critical injuries, the patient was then flown by Mercy Air to a trauma facility down in the San Bernardino Valley.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department as well as the City of Victorville Animal Control was on scene to help with crowd control and secure the victim's dog. The animal was not injured. Victorville Building and Safety assisted on-scene, assessing the damage.

Luckily, no other injuries were reported, as the truck penetrated a garage area rather than living areas. The vehicle was a total loss and approximately \$10,000 in damage occurred to the structure.

**Safety Message:** Be vigilant when driving, always scanning your mirrors for emergency vehicles coming up from behind you. Remember it is the law that you pull to the RIGHT and STOP until the vehicle has passed.