



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Chief / Fire Warden*

DATE: April 19, 2015
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Passengers Evacuate Burning Tour Bus

Date/Time: April 19, 2015
Location: Needles Hwy / Interstate 40 in Needles
Incident: Tour Bus Fire

Summary: Just after 1 p.m., San Bernardino County firefighters responded to reports of a tour bus on fire near the intersection of Interstate 40 and Needles Hwy. The driver of the tour bus was able to safely evacuate the bus of its 52 passengers who were on their way home from Laughlin, Nevada en route to Ventura, California.

When firefighters arrived on scene, they found the rear of the tour bus well involved in fire, with heavy smoke traveling throughout the bus. An ambulance responded for one of the occupants of the bus suffering from a respiratory emergency. The ambulance personnel also treated 3 of the passengers suffering from heat related problems. The remaining passengers were moved to Pair-A-Dice Boat and RV Storage across the street for relief from the heat. Later, San Bernardino County Fire and Sheriff units shuttled the passengers to a local restaurant to await the arrival of a replacement bus from Las Vegas.

The driver of the San Luis Obispo based tour bus stated that he heard what sounded like a rear tire exploding and immediately pulled the bus to the side of the road. He also stated that the rear of the bus was on fire immediately upon exiting the bus and promptly started evacuating it. The driver and passengers were also able to remove much of their luggage from the lower compartments of the bus before the arrival of emergency personnel.

Other than stated above, there were no injuries to civilians or emergency personnel during the incident. The cause of the fire remains under investigation and the tour bus appears to be a near total loss. The value of the bus before the fire was estimated to be at \$250,000.00.



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