



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County Fire Snow Cats Provide Valuable Service During Recent Snowstorm

Date/Time: Thursday, November 28, 2019
Location: Wrightwood, CA
Incident: Snow Cat Rescue

Summary: The recent snowstorm that blanketed many parts of the county brought with it many challenges for our emergency services. Heavy snow falls closed roads and, in some cases, limited access even with chained fire apparatus. This is where the fleet of snow cats County Fire maintains enables us to gain access to visitors and residents of the county that need help. One specific situation presented itself in the mountain community of Wrightwood.

A family of six came to Wrightwood around 5am and parked on side of the road past Mountain High. As the winter storm arrived the snow accumulation happened faster than they had anticipated which resulted in their SUV becoming trapped and unable to get out of the area. Initially the family attempted to get help from AAA and Cal Trans all of which were unable to provide assistance. Calls for service were extremely high for all agencies. At this point the roads were covered and unplowed.

County Fire was assigned to the call and responded with snow cat 14 on the trailer to Mountain High East which was as far as the patrol and trailer could make it. At this point the snow cat was unloaded and responded the remainder of the distance. The family was located about 2 miles past Mountain High on a completely unplowed highway with their SUV in several feet of snow. No injuries were found and all members of the family, which included four children, were doing well aside from being cold. Everybody was loaded into the snow cat including the dad's wheelchair. The family was dropped off at Mountain High where they could get warm and get some hot cocoa for the kids at the lodge.

San Bernardino County Fire reminds motorists to dress appropriate for winter weather and to carry additional food, water and blankets in their vehicle when traveling. December through February typically marks some of the coldest winter weather months for Southern California. While the scenery can be beautiful, this time of year can also bring a variety of dangerous driving hazards on roads and highways. Remember, stay alert and take precaution in route to your destinations this winter season in order to help keep everyone safe. The following are some winter weather driving tips to help keep residents and visitors safe on the road ahead.

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