



# NEWS RELEASE

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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**DATE:** *January 11, 2014*  
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## **Downed Power Lines Hamper Firefighting Efforts**

On January 11, 2014 at 1:47 a.m., a first-alarm structure fire assignment was dispatched by the San Bernardino County Communications Center for a house fire in the Town of Phelan in the 11800 block of Sierra Vista. This incident brought a total of 24 personnel from three engines, one medic ambulance, one medic brush patrol, one Battalion Chief, one investigator and one water tender from the San Bernardino County Fire Department. They were assisted by three engines and a Battalion Chief from Calfire.

Upon arriving on scene, the first-in engine found smoke coming from behind a double wide pre-manufactured home. An approximately 1300 sq. foot single-wide trailer was found to be fully engulfed with fire. Crews were delayed getting water on the fire due to electrical lines that had fallen and energized a fence surrounding the property. Fire attack was hampered until the power was secured by SCE representatives who arrived on scene shortly thereafter. Engine companies also ran into the problem of water supply in the area and used a water tender to do a "shuttle operation" which allows the tender to travel some distance to the closest fire hydrant, fill up, and return to supply the engine attacking the fire. It took personnel approximately 90 minutes to bring the fire under control.

There were no injuries reported to civilians or firefighting personnel. The damage to the single-wide trailer and the 25' enclosed trailer (a complete loss) was listed at approximately \$100,000.

The fire is currently under investigation by the San Bernardino County Fire Departments' Fire Investigation team. Three adults were displaced due to the electrical issues that arose and the power having to be shut off to the main home as well. Those adults were being assisted by the Red Cross. Multiple animals, to include horses and dogs, were not injured and kept safe by the firefighting efforts.

**Safety Message:** The San Bernardino County Fire Department recommends having your chimney and fireplace cleaned and inspected annually. A certified chimney sweep can clean the inside of your fireplace taking away highly flammable creosote which has a tendency to start chimney fires. They may also be able to check for cracks in your chimney which may lead to radiant heat escaping and allowing a fire to start in your attic.

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