

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TRUCK CRASHES INTO BUILDING

Date/Time: 9/24/12, 8:50 a.m.

Location: 18700 Block Valley Blvd., Bloomington

Incident: Rescue

Summary: San Bernardino County firefighters treated a victim and did emergency shoring on a building after it was damaged when a utility truck crashed into it. The incident occurred at a medical clinic, which is part of a strip mall, located on the 18700 block of Valley Blvd. in Bloomington. Initial reports indicated a person was trapped in the building, but the sole person in the clinic was not injured and was able to exit the building through the rear entrance.

The female employee at the clinic stated she was standing near the front counter and saw the truck stuck in the planter area in front of the store with the driver attempting to free the vehicle. She then saw the truck accelerate and crash through a column support and partially through the front window of the business. Fortunately, she was far enough away from the impact zone and was not injured. The driver was treated at the scene and transported to a nearby trauma center with moderate injuries.

After surveying the building, firefighters determined that the column that was damaged supported a façade in front of the clinic. The county fire department's Technical Rescue Team was called in to shore up the façade to prevent collapse. Using techniques common in earthquake building shoring, the façade was temporarily shored up until workers could properly repair it. San Bernardino County Building and Safety was also called to make a determination on whether the building was safe enough for people to occupy it.

The county fire department would like to take this opportunity to remind all business owners and employees to have an emergency exit plan. Normal entrances may become blocked in a fire or other emergency and it is imperative to have a secondary means of egress and to keep the path to that exit clear.

Pictures are available at www.sbcfire.org.

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