



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Mark A. Hartwig**  
*Fire Chief / Fire Warden*

**DATE: 5/23/2016**

**CONTACT: Engineer/PIO Jeff Allen (909) 547-4489**

## **Two Traffic Collisions on the I-15 Corridor Critically Injure Two Victims.**

**Date/Time: Wed, May 21, 2016 1:57 p.m.**

**Location: Interstate 15 Corridor near Baker, CA**

**Incident: Multiple Injury Traffic Collisions with Extrication**

**Baker, CA-** shortly before 5:30 this morning the San Bernardino County Fire Dept. received reports of a traffic collision with persons trapped on southbound Interstate 15 north of Afton Road between the City of Barstow and Community of Baker. Initial reports stated there was a single vehicle rollover with one occupant trapped.

County Fire dispatched a vehicle extrication assignment which included Engine 53 from the town of Baker, a paramedic engine and heavy rescue from the Marine Corps Logistics Base Fire Department (MCLB) as well as a battalion chief. Engine 53 along with Baker Ambulance arrived on scene approximately 24 minutes after dispatch and reported a single vehicle blocking lanes with one immediate patient requiring extrication and one patient with minor injuries who ultimately refused treatment and transport. Due to the nature of injuries and the remote location of the incident, an air ambulance was requested. The patient was extricated in under 10 minutes using the "Jaws of Life" and transported to a nearby landing zone to meet with Mercy Air.

At the same time the above incident was being mitigated, a second traffic collision was reported on northbound Interstate 15 south of Rasor Rd. This location is about 13 miles south of Baker. Initial reports included a vehicle rollover with one occupant trapped in the vehicle. County Fire dispatched a 2nd vehicle extrication assignment which included a paramedic brush patrol from Helendale, and Desert Ambulance from the City of Barstow. The Marine Corps Logistics Base Fire Dept.(MCLB) also diverted their equipment from the 1st collision to assist on the 2nd incident.

The first arriving chief officer from MCLB confirmed one immediate patient that would also require hydraulic tools to be extricated from the damaged vehicle. A second air ambulance was requested due to severity of injuries. This patient too was extricated in approximately 10 minutes and transported to a nearby landing zone.

The cause of both accidents is currently under investigation by the California Highway Patrol. Fortunately both victims were seat belted at the time of the crash. Seatbelts save lives.

###