



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Daniel R. Munsey
Fire Chief / Fire Warden



DATE: July 12, 2020
CONTACT: Mike McClintock, Battalion Chief / Public Information Officer
MMcClintock@sbcfire.org

Four County Firefighters Injured Battling Phelan Structure Fire

Date/Time: July 12, 2020, 9:55 pm
Location: 3500 block of Woodward Rd., Phelan
Incident: Residential Structure Fire

Summary: At 9:55pm on Sunday, July 12, 2020, #SBCoFD crews were dispatched to a reported structure fire in the 14400 block of Azalea in the community of Phelan.

First arriving crews found a large, single-story home well involved in fire with multiple exposures to adjacent structures on the property. Crews initiated a defensive fire attack in an attempt to knock down the fire and protect a large RV garage which was imminently threatened.

While crews were directing hose streams from an exterior patio, a portion of the roof collapsed causing the patio and a portion of the wall to come down. The collapse briefly trapped four firefighters. A “Mayday / Firefighter Down” message was broadcasted. A Rapid Intervention Crew deployed to the reported location and discovered that the affected personnel had been able to self-extricate from the debris. The firefighters were quickly assessed and treated by an awaiting SBCoFD Medic Ambulance. Two were treated at the scene for minor injuries. Two firefighters sustained moderate injuries and were transported to an area trauma center for treatment. They were released this morning to recover at home.

During the incident, crews found what appeared to a large marijuana grow inside the home and garage. Due to the large volume of fire, collapse and potential unknown hazards, crews switched to a defensive posture. The fire was ultimately knocked down in approximately one hour. Damage to the home and garage was extensive. No fire hydrants were in the immediate area making consistent water flow a challenge. A water shuttle operation was employed to meet the demands of the incident.

Due to significant compromise to the integrity of the home and additional hazards within the structure, a SBCoFD Dozer was utilized for mop-up operations.

The fire is under investigation by San Bernardino County Fire’s Office of the Fire Marshall and the San Bernardino County Sheriff Department.

SBCoFD responded with nine Engines, two Water Tenders, two Chief Officers, two Medic Ambulances and Fire Investigators. Cal-Fire assisted with an engine company.

###