



NEWS RELEASE

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COMMERCIAL FIRE AT PALLET BUSINESS

Date/Time: *9/25/13, 8:58 p.m.*
Location: *16400 Block Boyle Ave., Fontana*
Incident: *Commercial Structure Fire*

Summary: Firefighters worked until early in the morning to completely extinguish a fire at a commercial building on Boyle Ave. in Fontana last night. The fire was reported to the county communications center at 8:58 pm and was initially reported as a truck trailer on fire which normally calls for only two engine companies to respond. As additional reports came in, the call was upgraded to a full commercial structure fire assignment which included 4 engines, 1 truck, 2 paramedic squads, 1 heavy rescue and a battalion chief.

The first in company arrived 5 minutes after dispatch to find a commercial building well involved in fire and additional structures threatened. Because of the heavy fire involvement, firefighters operated in a defensive mode which involves protecting the exposures and pouring water onto the fire building from the exterior. As the fire was knocked down, crews were able to enter the building to make final extinguishment. The fire was declared under control in 1 hour 20 minutes and county firefighters were on scene for almost 4 hours mopping up hot spots.

The approximately 3000 square foot building was used to make pallets so fire loading inside was very heavy. Access problems also hampered firefighter's efforts. The business was closed at the time of the incident and the metal construction of the building necessitated using rotary saws to gain access. Damage estimates were for equipment only and was calculated at \$15,000 with the makeshift metal building not being included in any figures. Fire cause is still under investigation by San Bernardino County Fire Investigators. There were no injuries to civilians or the 25 county firefighters that responded.

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