



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: *Wednesday, January 15, 2014*
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RED FLAG STAFFING CATCHES BRUSH FIRE EARLY

Date/Time: *Wednesday, January 15, 2014 12:46 PM*
Location: *Hwy 138 at Hwy 173 Summit Valley, CA*
Incident: *Vegetation Fire*

Shortly after 12:30 PM, the San Bernardino County Fire Department responded to a Vegetation Fire on Highway 138 at Highway 173 near Lake Silverwood and the border of the San Bernardino National Forest.

Due to the Red Flag Warning, County Fire had a Brush Patrol pre-staged in the Summit Valley area patrolling for these types of incidents. This unit was part of County Fire's Red Flag Warning Staffing Plan which augments daily staffing with additional personnel and units in order to aggressively respond to brush fires which occur in the wildland-urban interface regions.

Arriving just minutes after dispatch, Brush Patrol 40 initiated an attack that stopped the forward rate of spread. County Fire resources were reinforced by fire crews from the San Bernardino National Forest and CalFire ultimately confining the fire to 1/4 of an acre. The rapid response created by County Fire's strategic placement of additional firefighters was instrumental in catching this fire in its initial phase and preventing exponential growth through the critically dry vegetation.

The National Weather Service has extended the Red Flag Warning, originally scheduled to expire at noon today, through Thursday evening. County Fire will continue both its augmented staffing and dispatch levels throughout the duration of this unseasonable event.

As last night's earthquake near Fontana and the extended Red Flag Warning remind us, Southern California is an area that holds the potential for numerous natural disasters. Preparedness is the key to survival! County Fire asks that you please take a few moments to review your Ready, Set, Go plans as well as inspect your Disaster Supply Kits. For more information and safety tips, visit us at www.sbcfire.org.

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