



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

**DATE:** *November 1, 2015*

**CONTACT:** *Jeff Allen Engineer/ Paramedic and Public Information Officer*  
*(760) 403-5797*

### **Early Morning House Fire Claims Two Lives**

**Date/Time:** *November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 5:10 AM*

**Location:** *12k block of Palm St. Hesperia*

**Incident:** *Residential Structure Fire with Fatalities*

Just after 5:00 a.m., San Bernardino County Fire received numerous reports of a residential structure fire near Cataba St. and Palm Ave. in the community of Oak Hills, which is adjacent to the City of Hesperia. Multiple 911 callers reported smoke visible and that occupants were still inside the home. Because of these reports an additional engine company was added to the original dispatch for a total of 4 paramedic engine companies assigned.

The first engine arrived within minutes and reported heavy smoke and fire coming from the front of the single story house. Two residents, who were alerted by working smoke detectors and were able to safely evacuate the home, stated that there were two family members, one of whom was bedridden, still inside.

Firefighters went into the attack mode and performed a primary search of the home in an attempt to locate the occupants. Subsequent arriving engine companies were assigned to support the rescue effort. During the primary search two elderly persons were located deceased in the room where the fire originated. Crews were able to complete the search and determine there were no other occupants in the home. The fire was declared under control in approximately 20 minutes.

County Fire responded with four paramedic engine companies, one paramedic ambulance, one brush patrol, one battalion chief and one fire investigator for a total of sixteen personnel. There were no other injuries to firefighters or civilians. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation by the San Bernardino County Fire Office of the Fire Marshal as well as the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. Red Cross was requested for two displaced adults. Damage is estimated at \$100,000.

*County Fire wishes to stress that you should never enter a building where there is a suspected or confirmed fire. Additionally the outcome of this fire could of resulted in further loss of life had there not been working smoke detectors in the home. The time change for fall of 2015 occurred this morning. This is also a great reminder to change your batteries in your smoke detectors. Smoke detectors save lives!*

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