



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: *April 30, 2013*

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MAN RESCUED AFTER BEING CRUSHED BY GRANITE IN CONTAINER

Date/Time: Tuesday, April 30, 2013 5:05 p.m.

Location: 11600 block of Industry Ave Fontana, CA

Incident: Technical Rescue

Summary: Shortly after 5:00 p.m., San Bernardino County Fire Department responded to the 11600 block of Industrial Ave. in the City of Fontana for a report of a man pinned beneath 1000 pounds of granite inside of a shipping container.

According to witness statements, employees were unloading granite slabs from the 20-foot container when the load suddenly shifted. A worker in the back of the container quickly dove to the far corner as the granite began to fall on and around him.

Fire department personnel were immediately able to make voice contact with the adult male, though they were unable to see or access him from the front of the container.

San Bernardino County Fire's Urban Search & Rescue Team began to access the victim from the exterior of the shipping container. The victim's ability to communicate with rescuers greatly sped the process in identifying his exact location inside. Using powered rotary saws, the USAR team quickly cut a hole in the side of the container close enough to be able to touch the victim.

As internal access was achieved, rescue efforts were continued with the use of hand tools. Once again, the victim hastened the extrication by describing the areas of his body he felt were trapped yet were not visible to the fire department. The victim's condition was such that he even was able to use a hammer and break away some of the granite unreachable by outside rescuers.

The physical rescue was a slow and methodical process. Cutting a larger hole may have granted easier access, however the sides of the container were still supporting the unstable load. Further compromise could have resulted in additional collapse. Using high-pressure air bags, rescuers stabilized the debris to the greatest extent possible.

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Exactly one hour and fifteen minutes after the arrival of the first fire units, the victim was successfully extricated from the container. He was transported by medical helicopter to a local trauma center for evaluation of serious, but non-life threatening injuries.

Both Fontana Police Department and Cal-OSHA were at the scene. The cause of the accident remains under investigation.

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