



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mark A. Hartwig
Fire Chief / Fire Warden

DATE: *January 3, 2015*
CONTACT: *Tracey Martinez, Public Information Officer*
(909) 387-5950, 800-426-8689, pager #3307

Smoke Detectors Activate, Family Gets Out Safely

Date/Time: **Saturday, January 3, 2015, 7:30 a.m.**
Location: **14500 block of Rodeo Drive, Victorville**
Incident: **Apartment Fire**

Summary: Firefighters responded to a 2nd alarm apartment fire at the Rodeo Drive Meadow Apartments, located at the 14100 block of Rodeo Drive in Victorville. Upon their arrival, flames were coming from the windows and roof of the second-story apartment. An estimated 25 occupants from eight separate apartments were self-evacuating. Residents told firefighters there were others still in the apartments. Firefighters immediately conducted a cursory search of all apartments and assisted with the evacuation of several occupants.

Firefighters began an aggressive attack and started ventilation operations. They were instrumental in keeping the fire contained to the kitchen and living room area of the one apartment. The sprinkler system inside the apartment activated, assisting with firefighting efforts. Twenty-nine firefighters from San Bernardino County Fire, with the assistance of one fire engine from Apple Valley FPD, had the fire contained within 45 minutes.

One female adult sustained smoke inhalation and was treated and released at the scene. Two firefighters were injured when the roof and ceiling collapsed. Both firefighters sustained moderate to major injuries (non-life threatening) and were transported to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center by American Medical Response.

The fire started on the balcony of the upstairs apartment and quickly spread into the attic. The cause of the fire remains under investigation by San Bernardino County Fire Investigator Brian Headley. One apartment sustained major damage, while eight others sustained water and smoke damage. The American Red Cross responded to assist 9 adults and 7 kids who were displaced due to the damage. Preliminary damage is estimated over \$200,000.

Smoke detectors have proven once again that they save lives! In this fire, the smoke detectors activated alerting the residents that there was active fire in their apartment. The female occupant stated she awoke when she heard the smoke detector alarm and was able to wake her brother and together they got all three kids out of the apartment as flames roared overhead across the ceiling. San Bernardino County Fire encourages residents to install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home and test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button. Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or sooner if they don't respond properly. Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the smoke alarm and understands what to do when they hear it. Learn more about the importance of working smoke alarms and testing them monthly at www.sbcfire.org.

Courtesy photos can be located at www.sbcfire.org under latest news.

###