



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Chief / Fire Warden

DATE: August 22nd, 2014
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County Firefighters battle flames in Joshua Tree

Date/Time: Friday August 22, 2014
Location: 61000 block of Alta Vista Drive, Joshua Tree Calif.
Incident: Structure Fire

Summary:

At approximately 9:30 pm the San Bernardino County Fire Department received numerous 911 calls reporting a house on fire in the community of Joshua Tree. Additional reports stated there were flames visible coming from the roof. As always is the case, the first priority is any potential victim rescue from the fire building. Fires late in the evening hours have a higher potential of having persons trapped inside.

County Firefighters arrived on scene just a few minutes after dispatch and reported a working fire through the roof of a single story residence and went into the "attack mode". Firefighters subsequently entered the residence and conducted a search for any possible victims. This is standard practice to always confirm that there are no victims in the building in need of rescue. The next priority is to save property. Firefighters conducted a safe and aggressive attack and had knockdown of the fire within 30 minutes. The home sustained approximate \$30,000 in damage. Ultimately it was determined that the home was unoccupied and currently undergoing renovation. Even though a house can appear abandoned or unoccupied, firefighters always conduct a thorough search to confirm there are no victims.

County Fire responded with a total of 13 Firefighters including 3 Paramedic Engine Companies, 3 Paramedic Ambulances and 1 Battalion Chief. County Fire also received assistance with a Brush Patrol unit from 29 Palms Fire Dept. to ensure that embers from the fire did not ignite adjacent brush due to the significant winds that were present during this fire. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation by the County Office of the Fire Marshal and there were no injuries to Firefighters or civilians. County Firefighters would like to remind residents to never park your vehicles in front of fire hydrants. Fire hydrants must be easily accessible when they are needed.

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