

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: January 13, 2016

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Pallet Fire Burns Dangerously Close to Freeway

Date/Time: January 13, 2016, 1:28 a.m.

Location: Woodland Pallets, 16700 block Boyles Ave., Fontana

Incident: Pallet Yard Fire

Summary: Firefighters responded to an early morning 2-alarm pallet fire at the Woodland Pallet yard. Upon arrival, they found 2-acres of pallets stacked about 40 feet high, many already on fire. Firefighters immediately dove into action fighting the fire from the ground and air utilizing ladder trucks; keeping the flames from reaching nearby buildings and railroad tracks.

Utilizing a SBCoFire Dozer, firefighters were instrumental in creating a fuel break and moving pallets away from structures. Within 2 1/2 hours, over 55 firefighters from San Bernardino County Fire and partnering fire agencies (Rancho Cucamonga, Rialto, & Colton) had the fire under control and saved adjacent structures and vehicles.

The blaze sent up a large header and could be seen for miles. Interstate 10 is located just north of the railroad tracks where the fire was burning. Fortunately temperatures were cool and there were no winds, keeping the smoke from blowing dangerously over the freeway. Train traffic was stopped for a short time.

San Bernardino County Fire Inmate Hand Crew 15-3 responded to the scene for overhaul and mop up operations, relieving firefighters and medic engines to return back to service in the community. Numerous piles of pallets and other materials have to be broken up to make sure all fire is extinguished. Crews are expected to be on scene throughout the morning.

There were no injuries or evacuations. No preliminary fire damage estimates at this time. Surrounding roads were closed until the early morning hours.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation by San Bernardino County Fire investigators. Anyone with information is asked to contact We-Tip at 800-47-ARSON (800-472-7766) or dispatch at 909-356-3805.

San Bernardino County Firefighters remind residents to never park your vehicle in front of fire hydrants. Fire hydrants must be easily accessible when they are needed.

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

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