



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: July 26th, 2014
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County Fire Extricates Trapped Driver

Date/Time: Saturday, July 26, 2014
Location: Hwy 247 near Reche Rd, Landers
Incident: Rollover Traffic Collision with Extrication

Summary:

At approximately 6 pm. San Bernardino County Fire responded to a rollover traffic collision on Highway 247 near Reche Rd. 911 callers stated there was at least one occupant trapped in the vehicle. County Fire units arrived on scene shortly after dispatch and reported a single occupant with critical injuries that would need to be extricated from the vehicle. Due to the patient's severe injuries, an air ambulance was requested for quicker transport to a trauma center. After an approximate 10-minute extrication, the patient was removed from the vehicle and prepared for transport to the awaiting Mercy Air Ambulance.

The benefit of County Fire staffing paramedics on fire engines was evident today. Vehicle extrication is a very hazardous practice. Firefighter/Paramedics wear specialized turnout gear that is fire resistive and provides protection from the hazards of damaged vehicles such as broken glass, sharp metal and leaking flammable liquids. This allows for the simultaneous initiation of advanced life support care while rescue procedures are underway, in this case a full 10 minutes prior to extrication.

County Fire responded with three paramedic engine companies, one paramedic ambulance and a battalion chief. Morongo Basin Ambulance and Cal Fire also provided assistance. The California Highway Patrol is investigating the cause of the accident.

The 10-minute extrication ran smoothly due to frequent training for these high-risk scenarios. In fact, this week, County Fire stations in the South Desert Division of County Fire will be focusing on scenario-based auto extrication training thanks to the donation of two vehicles from Hill Towing.

County Fire would like to remind motorists to always buckle your seatbelt while in a moving vehicle. In the instance the patient was wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash. Seatbelts save lives!

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