



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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San Bernardino County Firefighters Battle 3 Alarm Commercial Fire

Date/Time: October 27, 2020, 7:12 p.m.
Location: 4100 block of North Sierra Way, City of San Bernardino
Incident: Commercial Fire

Summary: Last night at 7:12 p.m., San Bernardino County Fire crews were dispatched to a reported commercial structure fire in the area of Sierra Way and 40th Street in San Bernardino. ME227 quickly arrived on-scene and found heavy fire in a center unit of a large strip mall.

Arriving crews initiated a fire attack, prioritizing a primary search for potential victims and limiting lateral fire spread to other strip mall units. The fire was well established in a center unit with multiple exposures to adjacent units. Due to the well-involved fire and challenges of strip mall fires, a 2nd and 3rd alarm was quickly requested. Interior crews and Truck Companies on the roof reported lateral spread to both sides of the initial occupancy and a running attic fire. Despite a coordinated attack the fire quickly grew and extended to the attic space and adjacent units. Due to the quickly advancing fire an operational retreat was initiated to get crews out of the building and off the roof. While crews transitioned from an offensive to defensive posture multiple power lines became compromised, causing a hazard.

Crews shifted their priority to holding the fire at the Bank of America bank and Cardenas Market next to the fire units. Crews were successful in holding the fire at the bank, saving the remainder of the strip mall, including multiple high-value occupancies. Besides the multiple units on fire, a significant ember cast started adjacent palm trees, an outbuilding and dumpsters for approximately one square block.

To suppress the fire, crews utilized hand lines, master streams and ladder pipes, flowing more than 5,000 gallons per minute on the fire. The fire was ultimately knocked down in approximately 90 minutes. Five strip mall units were heavily damaged in the fire. Four of the five were vacant at the time of the fire. The remainder of the strip mall was saved from fire damage. The fire is under investigation by San Bernardino County Fire Investigators. The scene was turned over to building representatives. Crews will continue to mop-up and investigate the fire today. No damage estimates were available at the time of the release, however the building sustained heavy damaged and was red tagged by San Bernardino Building / Safety.

San Bernardino County Fire responded with 14 Engines, 4 Truck Companies, 4 Chief Officers, a Safety Officer, a Hand Crew and 2 Fire Investigators. Rialto and Rancho Cucamonga Fire assisted each with a Truck Company. Cal-Fire / Highland Fire and San Manuel FD provided an Engine for station coverage. At the height of the fire more than 80 firefighters battled the 4-alarm fire.

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