



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Chief / Fire Warden

DATE: *December 26th, 2014*
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USAR Team Responds To Possible Rescue

Date/Time: Friday December 26th, 2014
Location: East of Red Mountain near Kern County
Incident: Mine Shaft Fire with a Possible Rescue

Summary:

On Friday December 26th, 2014 the San Bernardino County Fire Dept. received a call from the Kern County Fire Dept. reporting a fire in a mineshaft with a possible victim trapped. Kern County Fire Dept. arrived on scene at the mineshaft near the community of Red Mountain and reported smoke coming from the mine and determined it to be located in San Bernardino County.

County Fire dispatched numerous resources including a heavy rescue unit, one paramedic engine company, two water tenders and a Battalion Chief as well as two Urban Search and Rescue Companies from Kern County Fire Dept. This area of San Bernardino County has hundreds of abandoned mine shafts that have been known to be frequented by the public. Kern County Fire determined that there was a high probability of a possible victim being in the mine and the decision was made to dispatch more resources and conduct a confined space entry.

Urban Search and Rescue Personnel from County Fire made entry into the mineshaft, extinguished the fire and searched for any victims. The fire was determined to be an abandoned warming fire and a thorough search of the mine showed there were no victims present.

County Fire would like to remind members of the public that unattended or incompletely extinguished warming fires are a frequent cause of wildland fires. While not the case in this instance, this incident still resulted in a considerable and extended commitment of emergency resources.

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