



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: November 7th, 2015

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Fire Safety Demonstration Proves Valuable for Local Phelan Boy

Date/Time: November 7th, 2015 at 12:37 A.M.

Location: 3900 block. Sacramento Rd. Phelan, Ca

Incident: Structure Fire with Animal Rescue

Summary:

In the early morning hours of Saturday, November 7th, San Bernardino County Fire received numerous 911 calls reporting a structure fire in the 3900 block of Sacramento Rd near the community of Phelan. First arriving units reported heavy smoke and fire showing from two sides of a single story home. Crews were met by the occupants of the home, a 5 year old boy and his grandmother, stating that everyone was out of the home except the family dog, a Chihuahua.

Firefighters immediately went into the offensive attack mode in an effort to locate and confine the fire, and conduct a primary search. Even though the occupants stated everyone was out of the home, a primary search is always conducted when conditions allow to confirm there are no victims inside. As a result of this search, the family pet was located hiding in the bathroom and was rescued by County Firefighters.

The fire was knocked down in approximately 15 minutes, and there were no injuries to firefighters or civilians. County Fire's response included three medic engines, one brush patrol, one medic ambulance, one battalion chief, and a fire investigator for a total of 15 personnel. Cal Fire assisted with one engine company. Preliminary investigation determined the origin to be a space heater placed too close to combustible materials.

On Thursday, November 5th, a group of 100 kindergartners from Phelan Elementary School toured County Fire Station 10 in Phelan. All the students were given a station tour and lessons on fire safety which included "Stop, Drop and Roll", EDITH drills, (Exit Drills in the Home) and when to call 911. Among the 100 students was a 5 year boy who was asleep in the home on Sacramento Rd. the night the fire started in his room. The young boy awoke coughing from the smoke and noticed the fire burning in his room. He exited his bed and crawled beneath the smoke up the hallway to alert his grandmother to the fire. Because of this young hero's actions, both he and his grandmother were able to escape the growing inferno.

County Fire reminds citizens that with the transition to cooler temperatures it is important to keep space heaters at least three feet from anything that may catch fire from radiant heat. For more safety tips on winter heating reminders, visit www.sbcfire.org and click on Safety Preparedness, Heating & Candle Safety. It is also important to note that there were no working smoke detectors in the home. Although this incident had a positive outcome we always recommend smoke detectors are installed and working properly. Smoke Detectors Save Lives!

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