



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: May 19th, 2015
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Fatal Structure Fire in Pinon Hills

Date/Time: May 18th, 2015
Location: 1800 Block of Nielson Road
Incident: Residential Structure Fire

Summary: Just after 11:00PM a female occupant of a home in the 1800 block of Neilson Rd in the town of Pinon Hills was awakened by a noise in the home. Upon investigating what caused the noise the female found that the back of the home was on fire. The occupant immediately woke the other residents, and began to assist them out of the home. She was able to remove an elderly female to safety, and then attempted to reenter the home to save an elderly male in a wheelchair, but was quickly overcome by heavy smoke. The San Bernardino County Fire Department responded with 4 Paramedic Engines, 2 Paramedic Ambulances, 2 Water Tenders, and a Battalion Chief to the incident. The first SBCoFD engine company arrived to find the 3000 square foot home well involved in fire. Crews were notified by a SBSO Deputy that an elderly male in a wheelchair was still in the home. Crews immediately made an attempt to rescue the victim, but were unable to, due to the large volume of fire in the area where the victim was trapped.

It took 25 firefighters just over an hour to contain the fire. The crews were hampered by a lack of fire hydrants in the area, and relied on a water shuttling operation from two SBCoFD Water Tenders to supply water. During the overhaul stage of the fire, the male victim was found deceased, as well as five dogs that also perished. Fire Investigators from the SBCoFD and the SBSO Arson and Bomb Unit are investigating the fire. The fire started on the back porch of the residence, but the specific cause is still to be determined.

The home had working smoke detectors that did activate, but only after the female occupant began to wake the others in the home.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department would like to remind residents of the importance of developing an escape plan in the event of a fire. This plan should not only be discussed, but also practiced on a regular basis.

Photos are available at sbcfire.org, under latest news.

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