



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Chief / Fire Warden



DATE: September 29, 2020
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Two Story Commercial Building Destroyed in Early Morning Fire

Date/Time: September 29, 2020, 5:20 a.m.
Location: 700 Block of South Waterman, City of San Bernardino
Incident: Two Alarm Commercial Fire

Summary: This morning at 5:20 a.m., San Bernardino County Fire crews were dispatched to a reported commercial structure fire at South Central Ave and South Waterman Ave, in the City of San Bernardino. Multiple 911 callers stated smoke from a warehouse.

Company 221 arrived within 6 minutes of dispatch to find heavy smoke showing from the second story of a large vacant two-story commercial building. Crews initiated a fire attack prioritizing a primary search of the office building. While performing the primary search and fire attack, conditions deteriorated and forced crews to transition to a defensive posture. While transitioning from an offensive to defensive posture a collapse occurred, causing injuries to two firefighters. One firefighter was treated and transported to a local hospital for minor injuries. An additional firefighter was treated on scene. Once transitioned to a defensive posture, crews utilized ladder pipes to suppress the fire and limit the fire's spread.

The fire was ultimately knocked down in approximately 90 minutes. Due to the fire damage and construction features, fire crews will be there for multiple hours on mop-up. Mechanized equipment will also be utilized to safely facilitate overhaul.

The building, more than 29,000 square feet including 9,000 square feet of office, spaced over two stories. Vacant at the time of the fire, it sustained heavy damage. No damage estimates were available at the time of this release.

San Bernardino County Fire responded with 8 Engines, 3 Truck Companies, 3 Chief Officers, a Safety Officer and 2 Fire Investigators. Loma Linda Fire assisted with an Engine.

The fire is under investigation by San Bernardino County Fire Investigators.

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