



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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*Fire Chief / Fire Warden*

**DATE:** August 5, 2013  
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## **Firefighters Rescue Elderly Female from Burning Home**

**Date/Time:** 08/05/2013, 1:55 a.m.  
**Location:** 8200 block of Star Ln., Joshua Tree  
**Incident:** Structure Fire with Rescue

**Summary:** At 1:55 this morning, firefighters from San Bernardino County Fire Department in Joshua Tree responded to a house fire and rescued an elderly female from her burning home.

When firefighters arrived, the elderly woman's male companion notified the crew that the victim had re-entered the burning structure and had not come back out. Apparently she was making an attempt to rescue her dog and cat and gathering other items. Upon entering the burning structure she became overwhelmed by the smoke and could not escape.

Firefighters entered the home to find it completely charged with thick smoke and a fire in one of the rooms. Using their Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC), they quickly located the woman in the living room and pulled her to safety. Firefighters were also able to rescue the victims uninjured dog. She and her companion were both transported to High Desert Medical Center in Joshua Tree for evaluation.

The fire was caused by the victim who was smoking in bed and then fell asleep, awakening to her mattress on fire.

Loss to the structure is estimated at \$10,000 with a loss to the contents of \$10,000.

Remember to check the function of Smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors every six months and replace their batteries.

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