



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Mark A. Hartwig
Fire Chief/Fire Warden*

DATE: Oct. 10, 2014
CONTACT: *Ryan Beckers, Public Information Officer
(909) 744-2143*

Partial Roof Collapse at Fontana Strip Mall

Date/Time: Oct. 10, 2014 / 1pm
Location: 17000 block of Foothill Blvd., Fontana
Incident: Partial Roof Collapse Rescue

County firefighters and rescue personnel helped to free seven victims trapped in an office at a strip mall in Fontana Friday following the collapse of part of the building's roof.

Crews from County Fire's Battalion 1 in Fontana arrived on scene to find the ruins of an overhanging façade on the ground and blocking the exit for numerous customers still trapped inside one of the businesses. The façade had also collapsed onto the hoods of several cars parked in front of the business, causing moderate damage to each of them.

Crews evacuated customers and staff from each of the unaffected businesses while rescuers made access to the trapped individuals. After determining no one was injured, firefighters placed a ladder, which served as a bridge for victims to be helped out of the office and over the rubble.

One individual stated he was in pain from a previous injury but was not injured by the collapse. Paramedics evaluated the individual and released him without treatment.

Twelve firefighters, including a County Fire technical rescue company, as well as one aerial ladder company, one engine, one paramedic rescue squad and a battalion chief, responded to the scene. Fontana Building and Safety personnel remained on scene to investigate.

All businesses within the structure were closed until further notice.

Fontana Police Dept. blocked traffic and assisted with crowd control. A part of Mango Ave. was temporarily closed and traffic re-routed. The street was re-opened at approximately 2:30pm.

Witnesses stated hearing an unidentified sound, followed closely by a much louder, "earthquake-like" noise that accompanied the collapse.

Damage estimates are still being determined.

###