



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Apartment Building Fire Causes Evacuation

On December 7, 2013 at 1:06 pm a commercial structure fire was dispatched by the SB County Communications Center to an 11 unit apartment building in the 17000 block of Donert St. in the city of Hesperia.

Upon arriving on scene six minutes after dispatch, the first-in engine found smoke coming from the front of the apartment near the heating and air conditioning unit. The fire was determined to be in the wall area near the heating unit, and spreading to the ceiling structure. An aggressive attack was made by the fire personnel, as well as an evacuation of the building as a precaution. Firefighting personnel continued to check for extension of the fire in the walls and ceiling until it was determined to be extinguished. The fire caused approximately \$9,000.00 in damage including smoke damage to an upstairs unit in addition to fire, smoke and water damage to the involved downstairs unit. The 11 unit apartment building was estimated to be valued at \$660,000.00.

The heater had been turned on by an apartment building employee an hour before the family was to move in. While the family was moving in, they realized something was wrong and called 911. The cause of the fire is still under investigation but is centered on the heating unit.

The owner of the apartment building has offered to let the displaced families use other vacant units in the building.

A total of 18 San Bernardino County Fire personnel responded including 3 engines, 2 trucks, an ambulance, a battalion chief and an investigator.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department would like to remind our residents that heat-producing appliances should be turned on and inspected by gas company representatives after they have been off for an extended period of time. The gas company has special equipment to check for leaks and carbon monoxide which can be deadly.

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