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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Responders Organized for Pass Emergencies (ROPE) Table Top Exercise

After months of planning, First Responders and Private Sector partners from San Bernardino County came together on September 24, 2013, at the Goldy S. Lewis Community Center in Rancho Cucamonga to participate in the San Bernardino County Responders Organized for Pass Emergencies (ROPE) Table Top Exercise created by San Bernardino County Fire Department Office of Emergency Services and the ROPE Committee.

The exercise scenario addressed the challenges of accessing the Cajon Pass after a 7.8 earthquake. With the San Andreas Fault cutting through southwestern San Bernardino County, which houses some of the most densely populated areas in the region, the likelihood of post-earthquake challenges in the Cajon Pass are evident. Due to the fact that the Cajon Pass incorporates a major transportation corridor (Interstate 15), rail, and utility resources; infrastructure coordinated operations are essential to the response and recovery of San Bernardino County and the Southern California region. The exercise focused on Incident Command objectives and priorities, Operational Communications and Operational Coordination, including strategic areas north and south of the Cajon Pass to facilitate emergency responses, along with analyzing any gaps within the ROPE planning process.

At the conclusion of the exercise more than 100 participants now feel prepared to respond to an incident within the Cajon Pass using the newly established draft ROPE Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG) and the draft ROPE Field Operations Guide (FOG) for all-hazards.

Photos are posted at <u>www.sbcfire.org</u> under latest news.



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