



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: October 19, 2020
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Fire Damages Needles Apartment Building, Burns ¾ Acre of Vegetation

Date/Time: October 17, 2020, 2:23 a.m.
Location: 1500 block of Washington Street, City of Needles
Incident: Vegetation Fire

Summary: At 2:23 a.m., San Bernardino County Fire crews were dispatched to a reported structure fire in the 1500 block of Washington Street in the City of Needles. Multiple 911 callers stated vegetation and a home were well involved.

ME32 arrived at a three-unit apartment building with 1-2 units well involved and 1/4 acre of vegetation also on fire. ME32 initiated a fire attack, prioritizing evacuation of the apartment complex and completing a search of the apartments. Crews made entry, making notification and assisting with evacuation of three residents. The first arriving crew juggled a well involved building on fire, a 1/4-acre vegetation fire and multiple exposures. Mohave Valley (AZ) E811 arrived and assisted ME32 with their efforts. The fire was ultimately knocked down in 45 minutes. Two of the three units received fire or smoke damage. Crews remained on-scene working on overhaul for five additional hours. Construction features and dense vegetation made overhaul slow going.

San Bernardino County Fire responded with an Engine, Brush Patrol, Fire Investigator and Battalion Chief. Mohave Valley assisted with an Engine. The cause is under investigation, but it appears the fire started in vegetation and extended to the nearby occupancy. Red Cross was requested for temporary housing assistance.

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