



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Daniel R. Munsey
Fire Chief / Fire Warden



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CONTACT: Mike McClintock, Battalion Chief / Public Information Officer
(909)677 – 7412, MMcClintock@sbcfire.org

Two Alarm Fire Burns San Bernardino Warehouse

Date/Time: October 20, 2020, 12:55 a.m.
Location: 1100 block of North Harris, City of San Bernardino
Incident: Commercial Fire

Summary: This morning at 12:55 a.m., San Bernardino County Fire crews were dispatched to a reported commercial fire in the area of 11th Street and Harris Street in the City of San Bernardino.

Crews arrived within 6 minutes of dispatch to find a large vacant warehouse with smoke and fire showing. Due to the fire conditions and size of the building a second alarm was quickly struck to bring additional crews to the scene. Crews initiated a transitional fire attack working to knockdown the fire prior to entry. Interior crews coordinated with ventilation crews for an assessment from the roof & to provide vertical ventilation. The priority was to complete a search for any potential for victims and determine the level of involvement. Due to the construction features, previous burns at the occupancy and amount of fire activity, crews were unsuccessful in completing a primary search early on.

The fire quickly progressed with crews transitioning from an offensive posture to a defensive operation. Once crews pulled out of the building, they utilized hand lines and master streams to suppress the fire. Low water pressure hampered additional ladder pipes or hose lines to be placed in service. San Bernardino Water District staff responded to assist with water pressure assistance. Due to adjacent train lines in the area BNSF was notified to limit traffic and speed through the area. The fire was ultimately knocked down in approximately 3 hours. At the height of the fire more than 60 Firefighters battled the fire. Fire crews remained on-scene for more than 7 hours working on fire suppression, overhaul and fire investigation. A large roof collapse also inhibited a thorough secondary search.

The cause of the large fire is under investigation by SBCoFD investigators. Two building inhabitants were able to evacuate the structure and were treated on-scene by an ambulance. Both refused transport.

San Bernardino County Fire responded with 15 Engines, 4 Truck Companies, 4 Chief Officers and a Fire Investigator. Rialto and Colton Fire each assisted with an engine. While crews operated on the fire, “move-up” engines were brought in to the San Bernardino area to ensure there was uninterrupted Fire / EMS coverage for our areas.

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