



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Vegetation Fire In Helendale Threatens Horses**

**Date/Time: Wed, May 4th 2016 1:57 p.m.**

**Location: Helendale Rd. near Vista Rd., Helendale, CA**

**Incident: Vegetation Fire**

**Acreage: 21 Acres**

**Containment: 100%**

**Helendale, CA-** Shortly before 2:00pm, San Bernardino County Fire received numerous reports of a vegetation fire near Helendale Rd. and Vista Rd. in the community of Helendale. Initial reports stated the fire was near the river bottom. Medic Engine and Medic Brush Patrol 4 arrived on scene one minute after dispatch and reported a confirmed fire in heavy fuels being wind driven. The fire was also threatening approximately 20 horse stables. A 2nd alarm was requested which dispatched numerous engine companies from the high desert as well as County Fire's All Risk Crew 6-1. A 3rd alarm was eventually requested as the fire continued to be driven by 15-20 mph winds in heavy river bottom fuels.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department responded with four water dropping helicopters including two 40 King patrol ships, Air Rescue 306 and 307. These resources provided much needed aerial firefighting and supported firefighting efforts initiated by crews on the ground.

County Fire responded with a total of seven engine companies, four brush patrols, three water tenders, one dozer, one paid all-risk hand crew, two inmate fire crews, one safety officer, five chief officers, and one fire investigator for a total of approximately 60 paid personnel and 40 inmate firefighters. Two inmate fire crews from CalFire, two engines and a chief officer from Bureau of Land Management, and one Engine Company from Apple Valley Fire Protection District assisted County Fire.

There were no structures lost or damaged and the horses originally threatened by the fire were sheltered in place and unharmed. There were no injuries to firefighters or civilians and the cause is currently under investigation by the Office of the Fire Marshal.

County Fire remained on the fire throughout the night and into the next day until 6:00pm reinforcing containment lines and mopping up.

County Fire would like to remind homeowners that now is the time to clear your property of dead and downed vegetation. Create a defensible space that will allow your firefighters to protect your home in the event of a wildfire.

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