



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Chief

DATE: October 16, 2012
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Structure Fire near Lake Arrowhead Quickly Contained

Date/Time: October 16, 2012
Location: 1000 block of Mecham Dr, Crest Park
Incident: First alarm structure fire

Summary:

San Bernardino County Firefighters, with the assistance of Crest Forest Fire Protection District and U.S. Forest Service, were dispatched to a reported garage fire in the 1000 block of Mecham Dr. at 9:53 am today. The first engine arrived within five minutes of dispatch to find fire coming from a built-in furnace located in the garage. Quick actions by the engine company knocked down the fire and kept it from spreading.

The homeowner reported the fire, having moments earlier returned home to find the residence "very warm." Her investigation revealed the furnace fire and she quickly dialed 911.

No injuries were reported during the incident.

Fire investigators found that a small animal had built a nest containing a nearly two-inch pile of acorns inside the furnace, near the burners. The furnace had started up due to the previous night's low temperatures, igniting the combustible material left inside by the critter.

The structure received only minimal damage, although the furnace was completely destroyed by the fire.

REMINDER: As the weather turns chilly, and home owners begin to use their furnaces, the San Bernardino County Fire Department urges ALL homeowners to have a complete check done of their the heating systems either by themselves or a certified heating/air conditioning company. A visual check of all components as well as changing out the filters can help save one's home from fire.

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