



# NEWS RELEASE

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**DATE:** July 3, 2012  
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## Man Loses Life as Home Goes Up in Flames

**Date/Time:** July 2, 2012, 10:41 p.m.  
**Location:** 100 block of Fremont Dr., Lake Arrowhead  
**Incident:** 2nd Alarm Structure Fire w/Fatality

Residents reported a fire was burning in the trees and had spread to a home on the 100 block of Fremont Drive in Lake Arrowhead, stating it was unknown if there was anyone still inside.

A two-alarm response was ordered and firefighters made their way up the narrow, winding roadway to find the 2nd story and loft of the 1300 square foot home well involved in fire. A female occupant, who barely managed to escape without injury, told firefighters her boyfriend was still in the home. Firefighters immediately conducted a cursory search of the residence and found the 58 year old male resident, along with two cats, deceased.

The dense overgrowth of trees and brush burning very close to the home, coupled with a leaking gas main hindered firefighting efforts. Despite these obstacles, it took 24 firefighters from San Bernardino County Fire, Crest Forest and Running Springs Fire Departments about an hour to knock down the blaze. Firefighters were instrumental in keeping the fire from spreading to adjacent homes. There were no evacuations of the neighboring area.

The home is a complete loss, with damage estimated at over \$150,000. The American Red Cross and a San Bernardino County Fire Chaplain responded to assist the displaced resident.

It is unknown if there were any working smoke detectors in the home. The cause of the fire is under investigation by San Bernardino County Fire Investigators with the assistance of San Bernardino County Sheriff's Arson/Bomb unit. It was determined the fire was not intentionally set.

Keeping your property clear of debris and maintaining proper defensible space and landscaping are important factors in protecting your loved ones in the event of a fire. Learn what you can do to lessen the risk of damage if a fire occurs by visiting [www.sbctfire.org](http://www.sbctfire.org) and click on the Ready, Set, Go icon.

Photos can be located at [www.sbctfire.org](http://www.sbctfire.org) under latest news.

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