



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mark A. Hartwig
Fire Chief

DATE: August 14, 2012
CONTACT: Tracey Martinez, Public Information Officer
(909) 387-5950, 800-426-8689, pager #3307

Lightning Causes Desert Vegetation Fire

Date/Time: August 13, 2012, 7:10 p.m.
Location: Jack Smith Memorial Park, City of Needles (TB 3620 E-6)
Incident: Vegetation Fire

A band of wild weather blew through the Needles area of the Colorado River leaving a path of destruction. Lightning struck the marsh area at the Jack Smith Memorial Park in Needles, causing a wind driven vegetation fire, with gusts upward to 60 MPH.

The fire quickly spread from the park along the Colorado River, with embers reaching across the river to the Arizona side. There were multiple lightning strikes in the area that may have caused a second fire start on the Arizona side as well.

Sixty (60) acres has burned on the California side and is 60% contained, with full containment expect this evening. There are no structures threatened at this time and no injuries to civilians or firefighters. The fire has reached an area that burned in April of 2011, giving firefighters an opportunity to gain the upper hand on the Ca. side. Over 50 firefighters from San Bernardino County Fire continue to fight the fire, with the assistance of a dozer and Hand Crew 40.

The fire on the Arizona side is burning in a southerly direction along the Colorado River toward the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge. It's burning in thick brush that has not burned since 1993, has consumed over 280 acre and is 15% contained, with full containment this evening. The fire is being managed by the Mohave Valley Fire Dept. & the Bureau of Land Management.

Firefighters continue to battle the blaze in triple digit temperatures and humidity, with the threat of another band of thunderstorms again this afternoon.

Photos will be posted at www.sbcfire.org under latest news as they become available.

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