



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Chief*

DATE: *May 7, 2012*
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Fire Engine Struck by Vehicle

Date/Time: *May 7, 2012, 2:17 a.m.*
Location: *EB I-10/Riverside Ave., Rialto*
Incident: *Traffic Collision with Injury*

Summary: San Bernardino County Firefighters were on scene of a two-vehicle, non-injury traffic collision that was blocking the #3 and #4 lanes of Eastbound I-10 just west of Riverside Avenue in Rialto when a second traffic collision occurred. The fire engine, with code 3 lights activated, was parked at an angle to the rear of the collision, shielding the vehicles from oncoming traffic.

Firefighters were returning to their unit when a female driver in her early 30's struck the right rear of the fire engine with her Hyundai Accent, lodging the vehicle under the engine and trapping the driver. Using the Jaws of Life, firefighters were able to extricate the driver within 15 minutes. She sustained serious injuries and was transported by Rialto Fire personnel to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center. No injuries were incurred by the 4-man fire crew.

Had the fire engine not been parked where it was, the Hyundai would have plowed into the two vehicles involved in the previous collision.

San Bernardino County Fire and American Medical Response were on scene of the initial traffic collision. Additional units from County Fire, Colton and Rialto arrived after the second collision to assist.

Both incidents are being investigated by the California Highway Patrol.

This is the second traffic collision in less than a month where an inattentive driver has struck a fire engine already on scene of a collision. On April 22nd, a male subject driving at an excessive speed collided into the rear of a fire engine at the Oak Hills off-ramp of northbound I-15, resulting in his fatality. In this incident, the firefighters were still inside the vehicle and one sustained minor injury.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department remind you to slow down and yield to emergency lights. Seatbelts save lives. Wearing a seatbelt is one of the best ways to minimize injury in the event of a collision.

Photos are available at www.sbcfire.org under latest news.

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