



# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Chief

**DATE:** April 9, 2012  
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## Explosion Destroys Building, Injures One

**Date/Time:** April 8, 2012, 10:54 p.m.  
**Location:** 9200 block of Fontana Avenue, Fontana  
**Incident:** Structure Fire

**Summary:** The San Bernardino County Fire Department Dispatch Center received several reports from residents stating they heard a loud explosion in the area of Fontana Ave. and Beech Blvd. in Fontana. County fire crews and Fontana police officers started combing the surrounding area in search of the source of the explosion. Several minutes later Medic Engine 72 came upon a burn victim in front of a residence at the 9500 block of Fontana Avenue.

The female (unknown age) received 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns to her upper body from an explosion that occurred when she went to ignite a small camp stove inside her residence. The explosion caused a "flash" fire that quickly extinguished itself. She was transported to the Burn Ward at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton.

Firefighters found a detached garage to the back of the primary residence that had been converted to living quarters. One wall of the building was shattered from the explosion and the roof had collapsed, destroying the structure. Due to a language barrier, it was unknown if anyone else was inside the residence. Firefighters conducted a cursory search of the structure and found no occupants inside.

San Bernardino County Investigators determined a hose line connecting a 5 gallon propane tank outside the structure through the wall to the camp stove inside the structure was severed, causing an explosion when the resident went to ignite the stove.

San Bernardino County Fire encourages the use of UL listed devices in accordance with manufacture instructions.

Photos are available at [www.sbcfire.org](http://www.sbcfire.org) under latest news.

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