



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Chief

DATE: *February 17, 2012*
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2nd Alarm Fire Claims Life Residents Report Hearing Explosions

Date/Time: **February 16, 2012, 9:16 p.m.**
Location: **14400 block of Southwood Drive, Fontana**
Incident: **Residential Structure Fire**

Summary: San Bernardino County Fire received numerous calls from residents stating they heard several explosions and that a house was now on fire. Firefighters arrived on scene within minutes and discovered the two-story home fully engulfed in flames. The fire was encroaching on adjacent structures on each side of the burning home. Neighbors also reported that they believed someone was still inside the home.

Firefighters quickly set out to extinguish the blaze and keep it from spreading to adjacent homes. Firefighters tried to enter the residence on several occasions, however were unable to do so due to the intensity of the fire. About 40 firefighters from San Bernardino County Fire, Ontario and Rancho Cucamonga Fire were able to extinguish the blaze in approximately 40 minutes and were successful in keeping the fire from further damaging adjacent homes. Firefighters immediately entered the home where they located a male adult deceased.

Due to the intensity of the explosion, the garage door was blown from its hinges about 40 feet, landing in the middle of the cul-de-sac. The residence is a complete loss. The adjacent structures suffered minor damage, mainly blown out windows from the explosion and fire damage to the eaves. All occupants from adjacent homes evacuated safely prior to firefighter arrival.

It appears the fire started in the living room at the front of the home. The cause of the fire and the explosions remain under investigation by San Bernardino County Fire Investigators with the assistance of San Bernardino County Sheriff's Arson/Bomb unit and the Fontana Police Department. The exact cause of death will be determined by the San Bernardino County Coroner's Office.

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