



# NEWS RELEASE

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Fire Chief

**DATE:** September 15, 2012  
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## Fatal Traffic Collision Causes Gasoline Fire

**Date/Time:** September 15, 2012, 12:54 a.m.  
**Location:** Bear Valley Rd/11th St., City of Hesperia  
**Incident:** Fatal Traffic Collision w/Fuel Spill & Fire

**Summary:** San Bernardino County Fire received numerous reports of a traffic collision involving a semi truck and passenger vehicle on Bear Valley Road at 11th Street. Residents stated they tried to come to the aid of the drivers, however had to turn back due to explosions and the extent of the fire. Upon arrival minutes later, firefighters found a semi truck carrying two tanks of fuel completely engulfed in flames, with fuel spreading in both directions.

The driver of the semi was able to exit the truck and run for safety prior to firefighter arrival. He sustained moderate injuries and was transported by a County Fire ambulance to Desert Valley Hospital. Firefighters quickly extricated the driver and sole occupant from the passenger vehicle fearing the fire would reach the vehicle. The male adult driver was pronounced dead at the scene.

The fuel fire spread southerly to a nearby home as well as in a northerly direction across all lanes of Bear Valley Rd., down a drainage, across the outer highway and into vegetation located between an animal hospital and an apartment complex. Sheriff deputies quickly evacuated the apartment complex.

Over 30 County Fire firefighters arrived on scene and had the fire extinguished within 45 minutes with the assistance of the CRASH unit, a Striker 3000 which holds 3000 gallons of water, 420 gallons of Aqueous Film Forming Foam and 450 pounds of Purple K dry chemical agent to combat fires involving flammable liquids.

The semi truck had been carrying 9,000 gallons of fuel, in which the majority of the fuel burned. The vegetation fire burned approximately 1/2 acre. The residence to the south of the highway sustained minor damage. The animal hospital sustained water and smoke damage. The semi truck burned to the ground.

San Bernardino County Fire Hazardous Materials Specialists remain on scene while a private contractor performs the clean up. Haz-Mat personnel will continue to monitor the clean up and ensure public safety. Bear Valley Road was closed in both directions from Balsam to 9th Street until 10 a.m. Bear Valley Rd. from 9th St. to 11th St. is expected to be closed for several days for clean up and road repair.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office is conducting the accident investigation. Residents are advised to stay inside and keep their windows closed due to the strong odor of fumes that may remain in the area until clean up is complete.

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