



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Chief / Fire Warden



DATE: 12/1/2021

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Three Alarm Fire Damages Multiple Buildings

Date/Time: 12/1/21, 5:24AM

Location: New construction area, Bodenhamer x East 9th Street, City of Upland.

Incident: Commercial Structure Fire

Summary:

Early this morning San Bernardino County Fire crews were dispatched to a reported structure fire in the area of 13th Ave and East 9th Street in the city of Upland. Multiple 911 callers stated a large fire in a construction area.

Firefighters arrived in the area to find multiple apartment type buildings under construction well involved in fire with multiple immediately threatened. A second alarm and ultimately third alarm were struck to bring additional personnel and equipment to the scene. Arriving firefighters utilized hand lines and master streams to battle the fire. High radiant heat and exposed lumber contributed to fire spread, challenging their efforts. Crews surrounded the large fire working to keep the fire from spreading building to building.

Adjacent to the large fire were multiple large apartment complexes housing hundreds of residents. The focus was to limit the spread to recently completed buildings and area homes. Despite their best efforts, an attic fire impacted a two-story apartment building in the 1300 block of Chaffee. Firefighters quickly mounted a fire attack, working to knock down the fire in the additional occupancy. Due to fire, smoke and water damage 25 residents were displaced. Red Cross was requested to assist the displaced residents.

In total eight apartment buildings in various stages of construction were damaged or destroyed. One occupied eight unit apartment was damaged. More than a dozen threatened structures were saved during the intense firefight. No damage estimates are available but the losses are significant. Multiple Fire Investigators are on-scene working on a cause and origin investigation. The fire remains under investigation. One firefighter received minor injuries.

At the height of the fire more than 60 firefighters, 15 Engines, 5 Trucks and 6 Chief Officers worked the challenging fire. San Bernardino County Fire responded with 7 Engines, 3 Truck Companies, 4 Chief Officers, a Heavy Equipment Team, Air / Light Unit, Hand Crew and Four Fire Investigators. Ontario sent a full alarm to the fire as it was also reported in Ontario's nearby jurisdiction. Rancho Cucamonga, Montclair and Los Angeles County Fire also assisted. Thanks to our cooperators for the help.