



# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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FIRE CHIEF

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## NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### - Am Track Train vs. Tree -

SANTA BARBARA, Ca. January 3, 2011 – At 10:07 am, Santa Barbara County Fire Department (SBC FD) responded to an Am Track passenger train that struck a large eucalyptus tree. The accident occurred approximately one mile south of El Capitan State Beach.



SBC FD responded three engines, a ladder truck and a battalion chief to the accident and was assisted by American Medical Response (AMR). The accident occurred when the south bound train, rounded a curve and noticed the tree had fallen over the tracks. The train crew initiated an emergency stop, but was unable to stop in time. The train

contacted the tree at eye level with the wind shield. The train dragged the tree down the tracks approximately 100 yards. It took the train ¼ of a mile to come to a complete stop.



Firefighters boarded the train to check the 7 member crew and 130 passengers for injuries. There were no injuries reported. The train originated in San Luis Obispo and was in route to San Diego. The front of the train sustained moderate damage and some windows were blown out on one side. Firefighters also removed the tree debris from the tracks so that the rail road could reopen. The six car and one engine train was delayed for about one hour and was moved to Goleta for mechanical evaluation.

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