



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

MICHAEL DYER
FIRE CHIEF

4410 Cathedral Oaks Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93110

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

- Vehicle Accident with Fire -

Buellton, Ca. January 12, 2012 – At 3:04 pm, the Santa Barbara County Fire Department (SBC FD) responded to a multiple vehicle accident with fire, located on Highway 101, south of Santa Rosa Road (in an area know as Three Bridges), south of the city of Buellton.



SBC FD responded eight engines, two water tenders, a hazardous materials unit, one rescue ambulance, one helicopter, a dozer, and two chief officers. SBC FD was assisted by the California Highway Patrol, American Medical Response, Cal

Star Air Ambulance, and the US Navy Sea Bees. Additional resources had to be moved from the Santa Barbara south county to cover the north county during the incident.

Firefighters arrived on scene and found a big rig truck fully involved in fire and in the bottom of a creek. A vehicle containing three occupants was teetering on the bridge above the truck. Firefighters extinguished the fire and treated the patients. The driver of the big rig died at the scene. The three occupants of the vehicle required extensive extrication by firefighters. A US Navy Sea Bee tow vehicle in the area was able to provide stabilization for the vehicle during the extrication. All three patients were transported to Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital: one via AMR ground ambulance, one by Cal Star Air Ambulance and one by SBC FD Helicopter 308. All three patients sustained moderate injuries.

The truck spilled approximately 50 gallons of diesel fuel in the creek bottom. SBC FD heavy equipment was able to construct a dike to prevent the spill from spreading.

Highway 101 was closed in both directions due to the accident. Traffic was rerouted over Highway 154. The cause of the accident is under investigation by the CHP.

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