

Brothers Die While Handling UXO in Apartment

Posted At : May 12, 2007 4:22 PM | Posted By : Admin

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Barstow, California A man and his younger brother were handling a UXO item in the man's apartment when it exploded. Neighbors called the police and reported the explosion. Barstow police quickly responded to the Santa Fe Community Mobile Home Park and Apartment Complex and found smoke billowing from the apartment building. Police and emergency rescue personnel found the two brothers inside and removed them to a nearby open field area where an emergency medi-vac helicopter could land.

One man died while waiting for the helicopter to arrive. The second victim was taken to the Barstow Community Hospital but died later that day from complications resulting from his injuries. The Army EOD unit out of Fort Irwin provided technical assistance in removing the remnants of the UXO in the apartment. Authorities did not release the specific type of UXO involved in the incident but did confirm that it was a "military grade explosive device". An investigation is underway to determine how the two men obtained the explosive device.