

CENTRAL FIRE DISTRICT
INFORMATION
INCIDENT MEDIA RELEASE

DATE OF INCIDENT: 5/21/09 _____ DISPATCH TIME: 13:06

TYPE OF INCIDENT: Structure Fire.

LOCATION OF INCIDENT: 2190 Chanticleer Avenue

OCCUPANT/OWNER OF PROPERTY: Lou Zurich

BRIEF SCENARIO OF INCIDENT: Central Fire District was dispatched to a report of a kitchen fire in apartment 19 at this address. The dispatch center received multiple 911 calls reporting fire and smoke seen coming from the building. Upon arrival, firefighters found the two story apartment complex with smoke and fire emanating from the doors and windows of apartment 19. The apartment on fire was part of a four unit building connected by a common attic space. It had been reported that all of the residents present evacuated following the sounding of smoke alarms. Firefighters attacked the fire and ventilated the roof of the building to release smoke and gases.

A second alarm assignment was dispatched when it was discovered that fire had extended into the attic. Firefighters from Santa Cruz City Fire, Aptos La Selva Fire District and Scotts Valley Fire District responded as part of the second alarm assignment. Sheriff's Deputies and CHP Officers responded for traffic control. Traffic had to be redirected at three separate locations to allow room for the emergency vehicles responding to the fire. American Medical Response dispatched one ambulance to handle any potential injuries.

The fire traveled quickly through the apartment due to open doors and windows providing oxygen to the blaze. Firefighters contained the fire to the apartment in which it originated and prevented its spread to the three other units in the complex. The apartment in which the fire originated has been determined a total loss with all contents destroyed. The three other apartments received minor smoke damage. Utilities to all four units were secured as a safety precaution.

Four families have been displaced until repairs can be made to the building. The Santa Cruz chapter of the Red Cross is providing assistance to these families.

INJURIES: None reported during the incident.

FATALITIES: None.

TOTAL TIME TO CONTAIN: 20 minutes.

TOTAL TIME TO CONTROL: 45 minutes.

NUMBER OF CENTRAL UNITS AND PERSONNEL: Engines –2, Trucks – 1, Chief Officers – 3, Firefighters – 10, Fire Prevention Officers – 1.

AUTOMATIC AID/MATUAL AID USED: Santa Cruz City Fire Department – 1 engine, 3 firefighters. Aptos La Selva Fire District – 1 engine, 3 firefighters. Scotts Valley Fire District – 1 engine, 3 firefighters. CHP – 2 patrol officers. Santa Cruz Sherriff's Department – 4 deputies. American Medical Response – 1 field supervisor

INVESTIGATION STATUS: The fire has been determined to be accidental. The area of origin was the kitchen of apartment 19. The cause is under investigation.

PREPARED BY: Mike DeMars – Public Information Officer