

CENTRAL FIRE DISTRICT
INFORMATION
INCIDENT MEDIA RELEASE

DATE OF INCIDENT: 3/25/09 _____ DISPATCH TIME: 08:41

TYPE OF INCIDENT: Structure Fire.

LOCATION OF INCIDENT: 2630 Portola Drive, space #4

OCCUPANT/OWNER OF PROPERTY: Gayle Coonan

BRIEF SCENARIO OF INCIDENT: Central Fire District was dispatched to a reported structure fire with flames seen at the above address. Upon arrival, firefighters found a single wide mobile home with smoke and flame in the kitchen area. The fire was contained to the kitchen area and quickly extinguished. Overhaul operations were made difficult by a large amount of storage in the home. One resident was present during the fire and escaped without injury. The resident stated that he had started to make some coffee on the stove and fell asleep on the couch waiting for the coffee to brew. He was awakened by the sound of a smoke alarm. Using a fire extinguisher he tried to extinguish the fire without success and exited the home. The resident was offered medical care by firefighter/paramedics on scene, but refused treatment. The alarm had been installed approximately one week earlier by Central Fire District personnel as part of a residential smoke alarm program. The resident stated that he had removed the alarm from the ceiling earlier, due to false alarms while cooking, and placed it in a drawer. In spite of the fact that the alarm was not in the preferred location, it still sounded in time to give the resident enough time to escape without injury. The smoke alarm was recovered, in good condition, from the debris during overhaul operations. Fire damage was confined to the kitchen area. Smoke damage was evident throughout the home.

INJURIES: None reported during the incident.

FATALITIES: None.

TOTAL TIME TO CONTAIN: 9 minutes.

TOTAL TIME TO CONTROL: 18 minutes.

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

AUTOMATIC AID/MATUAL AID USED: Santa Cruz City Fire Department – 1 engine, 3 firefighters.

INVESTIGATION STATUS: The cause of the fire appears to be accidental – cooking materials unattended.

PREPARED BY: Mike DeMars – Public Information Officer