

FIRE DEPARTMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

Incident Number: 18-10619
Information Contact: Douglas Miser, Battalion Chief
Incident Type: Structure Fire
Date/Time of Incident: February 6, 2018, 01:38 AM
Incident Location: 2000 Block of Vista Del Mar Drive
Cause: Under investigation
Injuries: (general) None reported
Number of Personnel: 17
Fire Equipment: 4 Engines, 1 Battalion Chief, 1 Investigator, 1 Truck Companies
Agencies Involved: Ventura Fire Department

Narrative: In the 2000 Block of Vista Del Mar Drive, residents were asleep in bed at 1:30 am when they were awakened by the sound of their fire detector and found their home to be filled with light smoke. They immediately called 911 and evacuated the house.

Firefighters entered the structure, and located an area where it was suspected that fire was traveling inside the walls. A thermal imaging camera allowed firefighters to isolate the area, and crews breached the wall and floor and extinguished the fire. Forced ventilation was used to minimize smoke damage in the home.

The fire investigation revealed that a fireplace, which was used earlier in the evening, was the source of the fire.

Repeated use over many years, and deteriorated brick and mortar, allowed the fire to breach the back of the fireplace and travel up the wall adjacent to the rear of the fireplace in a bedroom.

The very short response time for fire crews to arrive on scene and extinguish the fire, minimized fire spread and damage. The house had minimal content loss and structural damage was estimated to be approximately 5 to 10K dollars. The residents were allowed to stay in their home and the Ventura Building and Safety Department will be assisting them today with guidance on repairs.

The Ventura Fire Department would like to remind residents with older fireplaces that have signs of deterioration --broken bricks and mortar, to have their chimneys inspected by a qualified contractor.

(Photo on next page)



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