

FIRE DEPARTMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

Incident Number: 85567
Information Contact: Douglas Miser, Battalion Chief
Incident Type: Structure Fire
Date/Time of Incident: 10/21/18 at 12:56am
Incident Location: 10 Block of Q St.-- Cabrillo Village
Cause: Unknown
Injuries: Four Individuals – 2 Critical, 2 Moderate
Number of Personnel: 41 Firefighters
Fire Equipment: 8 Paramedic Engines, 3 Truck Companies, 3 Battalion Chiefs, 1 Light and Air unit, 1 Fire Investigator, Ventura Fire Chief
Agencies Involved: *Ventura City Fire Department, Ventura Police Department, Ventura County Fire Department, Oxnard Fire Department, American Medical Response (4 ambulances and a paramedic supervisor unit)*

Shortly before 1 am on Sunday morning, a Two Alarm fire broke out in Cabrillo Village (in East Ventura). The blaze resulted in several major injuries, two houses consumed by fire, and an adjacent home damaged. 911 reports to the Ventura Fire Communications Center stated callers were reporting smoke and flames seen from Oxnard.

Houses in the Cabrillo tract are very close in proximity, so firefighters worked in coordination to address the main structures on fire, while ensuring the surrounding residences did not conflagrate. Two homes had significant fire activity upon the first apparatus arrival. Numerous cars were fully engulfed in fire as well. The significance of the heat and speed in which the fire spread, necessitated large diameter hose streams to be initially deployed, commonly used in large commercial structure fires.

Four people were injured, reportedly all from the same house that initially caught fire, and were brought to a treatment and transport area. Two of the residents were in critical condition, with the other two sustaining moderate injuries. Patients received advanced life support care on scene and were transported to local hospitals.

Powerlines fell along the side of a row of homes that were threatened, exposing arching wires that hampered firefighting efforts. All occupants of the second home that caught fire evacuated quickly without injury.

A third home to the rear of the two adjacent homes involved, caught fire due to radiant heat. The fire started in the eaves and made a run through the attic. Fire suppression efforts successfully stopped the progression of the blaze. Damages were limited to 20% of the home.

Initial reports of how and exactly when the fire started did not indicate any obvious reasons for the blaze. A fire investigation is underway.

A total of 15 people were displaced due to the incident. The Red Cross arrived on scene and provided assistance to the victims of the fire. Initial estimated damages are over \$500,000, not including vehicles.

The Ventura Fire Department would like to remind everyone that exit drills in the home are vital to ensuring families have a pre-planned way to get out of the home in the event of a fire. A known common meeting area in a safe area outside, allows family members to quickly locate one another, and let fire crews know if someone is not accounted for.



