

02/02/2015

MEDIA RELEASE

Incident Number: 15-07849

Information Contact: Douglas Miser, Battalion Chief, (805) 701-3188

Incident Type: Structure Fire

Date/Time of Incident: February 2, 2015, 6:40 PM

Incident Location: 100 Block El Medio Street

Cause: Unattended Smoking Materials

Injuries: One

Number of Personnel: 24 Fire, 4 Ventura Police, 1 Ambulance

Fire Equipment: 4 Paramedic Engines, 1 Paramedic Truck Company, 2 Battalion Chiefs, 2 Fire Investigators, Fire Marshal, Fire Prevention Specialist, Assistant Chief

Agencies Involved: Ventura City Fire Department, Ventura Police Department, AMR

Early Monday evening on the West End of Ventura, a single family one story residence erupted in flames. The fire communications center received multiple reports of people trapped inside and that the building was fully engulfed. The fire was at the end of a narrow-- one way, fully occupied street which made access tricky for arriving fire personnel.

The fire started in a back house of a large narrow lot that had an additional two-- two story residences on the parcel. The fire raced out of the front of the living room and caught the porch and a vehicle on fire. Fire attack crews fought through the flames and entered the building looking for the residents. Fortunately, the three occupants of the two bedroom home were at dinner at the time, but got home shortly after the fire had started. One resident was exposed to the fire and was complaining of respiratory problems and was treated and released by AMR paramedics. Additional fire crews extinguished the car fire and kept the fire from spreading to the nearby residences. Flames had melted a window of the adjacent home, but the blaze was contained to the original residence-- held to the living room, a bedroom and bathroom.

The fire was knocked down in 17 minutes and caused an estimated damage of \$75,000 to the structure and an additional \$25,000 in contents. Fire investigators concluded the fire was started by improperly disposed of smoking materials. Ventura Police secured surface streets and mitigated traffic problems so large fire apparatus could maneuver. The Red Cross provided assistance to the three residents living in the home. Hotel vouchers and immediate necessities were provided. The home was yellow tagged and limited entry will be allowed until the unit can be rehabilitated.

Due to HIPAA we are prevented from disclosing an individual's protected health information (PHI). We may not release information regarding patient's names, DOB, address, SS# or medical status.





###