

Structure Fire

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07/30/2015

MEDIA RELEASE

Incident Number: 31524
Information Contact: Douglas Miser, Battalion Chief
Incident Type: Structure Fire Ventura Avenue
Date/Time of Incident: 7/30/15, 2:11 AM
Incident Location: 500 Block North Ventura Avenue
Cause: Under Investigation – Presumed purposely set
Injuries: (general) None reported
Number of Personnel: 14
Fire Equipment: 3 Engines, 1 Truck Companies, 1 Battalion Chief, 1 Fire Investigator
Agencies Involved: Ventura City Fire Department, Ventura Police

Narrative: Just shortly after 2:00am Thursday morning, a man woke to the smell of fire called 911 to report a large head of smoke and flames coming from an alley adjacent to his apartment complex on Ventura Avenue. Ventura Fire Medic Engine 1 arrived on scene within 3 minutes to find a large mattress on fire leaning against a row of exterior garage units that serviced the apartment complex. The fire extended into one unit, and the above façade-- and spread to adjacent garages.

Additional fire crews assisted in attacking the fire and provided for forcable entry into additional sections of the units to ensure that the fire did not extend further throughout the complex. The mattress was presumed to be purposefully set on fire, however there were no witnesses at the fire scene. Ventura Police units on scene provided traffic control and assisted in interviewing witnesses to the fire cause. The fire was knocked down in 12 minutes and mitigation to the full extension of the fire was completed within an hour.

Ventura Fire Investigators presume the fire was deliberately set. This fire was very similar to multiple fires last year in the West Ventura Avenue area. Each suspicious fire had the same common denominator-- publicly discarded furniture or large flammable items were placed against structures and cars and lit on fire in the middle of the night. If anyone has any information or noticed suspicious activity in the area, please call the Ventura Fire Department or Ventura Police Department for further information. The public may also help by reporting publicly discarded items to the Ventura Safe and Clean Neighborhood hotline at (805) 677-3999. The city program aims at removing items from city property and public places.







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