

Residential Structure Fire

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11/27/2015

MEDIA RELEASE

Incident Number: 87082
Information Contact: Douglas Miser, Battalion Chief
Incident Type: Structure Fire – Residential
Date/Time of Incident: 11/27/15 – Call reported 05:28
Incident Location: 700 Block of Montgomery Ave.
Cause: Unattended Candles
Injuries: None reported
Number of Personnel: 8
Fire Equipment: 1 Engine, 1 Truck Company, 1 Battalion Chief, 1 Fire Investigator
Agencies Involved: Ventura City Fire Department

Residents of a single family home were awakened to the smell of smoke and the sound of fire alarms in the early dawn. The home owner quickly ran into the living room from his bedroom and witnessed the television set and the items on top of an adjacent hutch-- on fire. He evacuated his wife and 1 year old child and grabbed an extinguisher and fought the blaze. Ventura City Firefighters were on scene in 3 minutes and ensured the fire was completely extinguished and performed salvage and overhaul to preserve as much personal property as possible and mitigated damages. The fire remained contained to the entertainment center. Whereas the fire directly entered the wall cavity through a wall speaker, an investigation with a thermal camera discovered that the heat and smoke damage was contained within the wall due to fire blocking – a modern building code requirement.

A common military phrase often used by one of Ventura's Police Commanders, 'Victory Favors the Prepared', was evident this morning. An unattended candle started the fire on a credenza that spread to a speaker and television. However, based on the preparation of the resident, a complete disaster was avoided and now the emergency is relegated to being an inconvenience. A modern whole house smoke detector system, quick access to a fire extinguisher, swift actions by the occupant, and quick response by the fire department are credited in minimizing the emergency.

The Ventura City Fire Department would like to remind residents to be careful in placing and using candles and make sure they are never placed near combustibles, nor ever unattended. Additionally, as temperatures fall and the use of heaters increase, we are asking residents to have older furnaces and floor heaters inspected, a common cause of fires in older homes.

