

Multi Unit Structure Fire

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05/22/2014

MEDIA RELEASE

Incident Number: 14-0030918

Information Contact: Battalion Chief Douglas Miser

Incident Type: Multi Unit Structure Fire

Date/Time of Incident: 5-21-14, 8:30pm

Incident Location: 100 Block of E. Mc Farlane Drive, Ventura

Cause: Under Investigation

Injuries: One Smoke Inhalation

Number of Personnel: 36 Firefighters, 4 Police Officers

Fire Equipment: 7 Engines, 1 Truck Company, 1 Support Company, 3 Battalion Chiefs, 1 Assistant Chief, 1 Investigator, 1 Prevention Specialist

Agencies Involved: Ventura City Fire Dept, Ventura Police

Damage Estimate: \$125,000 Structure - \$25,000 Contents

Fire Protection Systems Present: Not Applicable

A family was relaxing in the living room after dinner Wednesday evening when two small children smelled smoke coming from a back room. The mother walked to the back of the house and was confronted by a wall of fire that had started in a converted garage to the rear of the duplex. Flames were quickly spreading through the three-bedroom home. The family gathered all 10 members and poured out onto Mc Farlane Drive in the West End of Ventura. Residents of the upper unit of the complex saw flames and smoke surrounding their unit from the fire below and escaped outside by way of an exterior staircase.

Firefighters were greeted by a chaotic scene-- a very narrow street full of cars, smoke, and people everywhere. Fire was spreading from the rear of the downstairs complex quickly moving to the street side of the home. A total of 8 engines and 2 truck companies for a total of 36 firefighters battled the blaze. The fire progressed through a converted garage area and winded its way down narrow halls and rooms. The duplex was a combination of an older craftsman style home with a two-story addition to the rear. Both units were constructed using a wood exterior. The fire traveled within walls and through eaves making full extinguishment a very labor and time intensive process. The fire was knocked down in 43 minutes. The blaze was contained to the bottom unit and the upper unit suffered smoke damage and exterior flame impingement.

One of the occupants was complaining of smoke inhalation and was assessed and treated by firefighter-paramedics and Gold Coast Ambulance on scene. The patient was not transported.

The cause of the blaze is currently being investigated by a Ventura City Fire Investigator.

The Red Cross was summoned and provided shelter for the family of ten in the bottom unit and a family of three in the top unit. The family had two small dogs and one dog was found and the other could not be located. If you have any information on a found Jack Russell Terrier in the Ventura Avenue area, please contact the Ventura City Fire Department (805) 339-4300.

Due to HIPAA laws we are prevented from disclosing any individual's protected health information (PHI). We do not release information regarding patient's names, DOB, address, SS# or medical status. All attached photos are free from copyright.



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