

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

Press Release

**Subject: House Guttled, 2 dogs killed, 2 residents displaced in San Pablo Fire
1800 block Mason St., San Pablo**

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The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District and Richmond Fire Department crews responded to a fire in a single story home in the 1800 block of Mason Street in San Pablo at approximately 1030pm on Saturday, April 30th. Smoke was visible as units responded to the fire. The first fire crew arrived within 4 minutes and found the back of the home fully involved in fire. The occupants informed fire crews that everyone had exited the house upon discovering the fire, except for two family dogs. Crews found the dogs, which succumbed to the fire, and removed them from the residence.

A total of 17 firefighters from four engines and one ladder truck were able to bring the fire under control within 30 minutes of their arrival. The involved home sustained major damage but surrounding homes were not damaged.

Damage was estimated at \$100,000. The fire investigation determined the fire was started accidentally by an unattended candle. There were no civilian or firefighter reported injuries. The Red Cross was providing clothing and shelter assistance to the displaced residents.

Fires started by candles are easily prevented. We urge everyone to follow these simple steps to avoid experiencing a fire in their home or apartment as a result of using candles:

Candle Safety Tips

- Do not place candles near combustible materials.
- Place candles in glass or ceramic containers.
- Place candles on a flat, sturdy surface.
- Never leave children unattended in a room with an open flame candle.

- Do not place candles on window ledges or near entryways. The potential air draft can “fan” the flame, catching curtains or other materials on fire.
- Do keep burning candles within sight at all times. Candles can present fire hazards outdoors on decks and patios as well as inside your home.
- Always extinguish candles before leaving the home.
- Place all candles on a protected, heat resistant, dry surface away from anything that can catch fire and out of the reach of children and pets.