

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

Press Release

**Subject: Automatic Fire Sprinkler Activation
2020 Willow Pass Road, Concord**

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The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District responded to a fire alarm call at 2020 Willow Pass Road in Concord at approximately 4:30 am on January 9th. The first fire crew arrived to find water flowing from a building. Upon making entry to the building, the fire crew noticed a smell of smoke on the first level of the building. After a brief investigation, the cause of the smoke was a small fire that had been extinguished by the building's automatic fire sprinkler system. The fire was caused by a homeless transient burning trash and debris in the stairwell of the building to keep warm. In addition to properly initiating the building's fire alarm system, the automatic fire sprinkler system activated and extinguished the fire.

In this case, the automatic fire sprinkler system saved what could have been significant property damage or possible injury to occupants and responding fire crews if the fire had been allowed to grow unchecked. In addition, Fire District resources needed to mitigate this fire were limited to two fire crews for water and smoke removal from the affected area, thereby allowing fire crews in the surrounding areas to remain available for other responses.

Property managers and building owners are reminded that automatic fire sprinkler systems are required to be regularly inspected, tested, and maintained by licensed professionals. A properly maintained fire protection system is critical to keeping a fire-safe environment in your building.

Contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at 925-941-3300 if you have any questions about the inspection, testing, or maintenance requirements of your fire protection system.