

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

Press Release

**Subject: Commercial Structure Fire
Vacant Restaurant, 2153 Oak Grove Road
Walnut Creek**

Date: December 6, 2010

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The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District responded to a structure fire in a vacant restaurant located at 2153 Oak Grove Road in Walnut Creek in the pre-dawn hours of Monday morning. The fire was called in to 911 at 1:09am and the first fire engine arrived at just after 1:18am to find a fully involved 2 story building with flames through the roof. It took 70 minutes to bring the fire under control with multiple resources including 5 fire engines, 2 ladder trucks, breathing support equipment, and 2 chief officers. A total of 25 fire personnel were involved in the firefighting effort. The building was a total loss with an initial damage estimate of \$1,000,000. No adjacent buildings were damaged and there were no injuries to emergency personnel or members of the public.

The building was not secure and the fire investigation revealed evidence of transient activity in the building, possibly serving as shelter from the rain and inclement weather. Water, electrical, and gas service were all disconnected from the building. The cause of the fire is undetermined.

The building was equipped with automatic fire sprinklers, but the water supply to the sprinklers was shut off and the sprinkler system was not maintained which resulted in the fire being allowed to grow unchecked until it eventually engulfed the building.

Owners of vacant buildings are reminded it is their responsibility and legal requirement to maintain fire protection systems in the building and to ensure the building is secured to prevent entry by unauthorized individuals. Properly maintained fire sprinkler systems control fires in over 90% of all reported cases where a fire sprinkler is activated, and in many instances the fire is often extinguished by the sprinkler system.