

# Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

## Press Release

**Subject: Apartment Fire**  
**2409 Standard Avenue, San Pablo**

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The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District responded to a fire in a two story apartment building at 2409 Standard Avenue in San Pablo at approximately 5:57 am on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. The first fire engine arrived within 5 minutes of being dispatched and found heavy fire and smoke from one unit on the second floor. A total of 17 firefighters from four engines and one ladder truck were able to bring the fire under control within 15 minutes of their arrival. The involved unit sustained major damage but surrounding units were saved. Assistance was provided by the Richmond Fire Department.

The two occupants of the involved apartment unit were awakened to the blaze by the smoke alarm in their unit. They were able to escape from the apartment through a kitchen window; the path to the apartment unit door was blocked by fire. The two occupants both suffered serious burn injuries and were transported to the hospital after receiving initial care at the scene. All other occupants of the apartment complex were able to escape without injury. A firefighter received burns to a hand during the incident and was sent to the hospital for treatment and evaluation.

With the exception of the involved unit, all the residents of apartment complex were able to return to their units after the fire. Damage to the involved unit was estimated at \$15,000 for the contents and \$50,000 to the building.

Fire District Fire Investigators were called to the scene and conducted an investigation of the fire. At this time, the cause of the fire is undetermined and arson does not appear to be a factor. The fire did start in the area of the apartment where the Christmas tree was located; the intensity of the fire which involved the tree played a role in blocking the path for the occupants to the primary exit from the unit and contributed to the injuries sustained by the two occupants.

Residents are reminded to ensure their Christmas tree is watered daily and removed from the home when it becomes dry or the needles break and bent between the thumb and forefinger. In addition, it

is important to make sure the tree is not located in the path of exit from your home or near the main exit doorway.

In this case, a working smoke alarm is credited with waking up the occupants of the apartment. Smoke alarms should be placed in every bedroom of the home, in the hallway serving the sleeping areas, and at least one should be placed on each level of your home. Test your smoke alarm regularly and replace the batteries at least twice per year.