

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

Press Release

Subject: 2 Alarm Structure Fire – Apartment Building
3126 Lone Tree Way, Antioch

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At 03:07 hours this morning, the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District responded to a reported structure fire at 3126 Lone Tree Way in Antioch. The structure involved was a 3-story, 16-unit apartment building.

The first engine company arrived at 03:13 and found a well-involved fire in a second story apartment. The fire was rapidly extending to second and third floor units. The fire was quickly escalated to a second alarm bringing a total of ten fire apparatus and 35 firefighters to the scene. The fire was brought under control within 45 minutes. Assistance was provided by the East Contra Costa County Fire Protection District.

One resident sustained a minor burn injury and was transported by ambulance to Sutter Delta Hospital and later released. Two other residents were later admitted to area hospitals for observation today. There were no injuries to emergency personnel.

The fire caused major damage to four apartments, but fire personnel were able to contain the fire and prevent lateral spread to the other 12 units in the building. The damage estimate is \$200,000 for property and contents.

The Red Cross assisted approximately 48 people displaced by the fire and is continuing to support and shelter approximately 30 displaced residents through the weekend at a local area church. The displaced residents were temporarily sheltered at the Church of the Rock in Antioch during the incident.

The Contra Costa County Fire Investigations Unit determined the fire originated in a second floor apartment and the cause was accidental, resulting from careless smokers' materials. The smoke alarm in the apartment of origin was removed by the resident two weeks ago; this caused a delay in detection of the fire and notification of the residents and may have contributed to the fire related injury by not affording the resident with enough time to escape the apartment before the fire grew in intensity.

Working smoke alarms save lives. According to the National Fire Protection Association, nationally, 40% of all home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms. The death rate per 100 reported fires was twice as high in homes without a working smoke alarm as it was in home fires with this protection. In 2009, a total of six (6) fire deaths occurred in the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District; three (3) of those deaths were attributed to fires in homes with no smoke alarms.

If you don't have a smoke alarm in your home, take steps now to purchase and install a working smoke alarm in every bedroom of your home as well as the hallway immediately outside of any bedrooms. Smoke alarms are an inexpensive safety device and can be purchased from most hardware stores. If you are a landlord or property owner who rents or leases an apartment or residential dwelling, it is your legal responsibility to furnish functioning smoke alarms in occupancies you rent to others.

Remember – A WORKING SMOKE DETECTOR CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE!