

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

Press Release

Subject: Residential Structure Fire
East 12th Street, Pittsburg, CA

Date: March 15, 2011

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The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District responded to a structure fire in a single family home on East 12th Street in Pittsburg at approximately 7:50 pm on March 14th. The first fire unit arrived at 7:56pm, within 6 minutes of being dispatched, and found a heavy smoke coming from a 1930's era home. The fire was found in an upstairs bedroom and there were reports of transients living in the vacant structure. No persons were found in the structure and no injuries were reported. The fire was contained to the involved structure – no adjacent structures were damaged.

A total of 20 personnel responded to the fire with four engines, one ladder truck, one breathing support unit, two battalion chiefs, and one safety officer. The fire was brought under control within 20 minutes of the first fire unit's arrival. The estimated damage to the property is \$80,000.

A Fire District fire investigator was called to the scene and the cause of the fire is under investigation.

Owners of either residential or commercial properties are reminded to take all necessary precautions to keep unauthorized individuals from entering the building, as required by the Fire Code. In the winter months, instances of fire in vacant and abandoned buildings increases as transients or other unauthorized individuals enter the buildings seeking shelter from the elements. Warming fires or candles for light are often used in these vacant buildings which can lead to a fire inside the building. The risk to these unauthorized occupants and the responding firefighters are very real and we need the assistance of the property owners in combating this growing problem. Properties should be secured from unauthorized entry by locking or boarding up ground level windows, providing heavy duty locks on doors, and fencing the property if needed. Frequent visits to the property by the owner can determine if there is a problem with unauthorized entry.