DATE: 7/29/23
TIME OF ALARM: 3:09 PM
TYPE OF ALARM: Vegetation Fire, State Responsibility Area
LOCATION: 700 Block of Rancho La Boca Rd., Martinez
RESPONSE: 2 Alarms: 13 Engines, 2 Water Tenders, 1 Dozer, 1 Handcrew, 4 Battalion Chiefs, 1 District Chief, 1 Safety Officer, 1 Incident Support Unit, 1 Investigators, 1 PIO
ASSISTING AGENCIES: CalFire (1 Alarm), Richmond Fire, Moraga Orinda Fire, Rodeo Hercules Fire, East Bay Regional Parks Fire, Contra Costa County Sheriff, CHP, PG&E
TOTAL FIRE PERSONNEL AT SCENE: 62

Contra Costa County Fire units responded to assist CalFire in the state responsibility area of the Briones Valley for a vegetation fire. Contra Costa Fire units responding reported a large column of white smoke from downtown Martinez. Battalion 2 (Concord) was the first fire unit to arrive on scene and reported a rapidly moving wind driven five acre fire that was threatening homes. Battalion 2 ordered an additional alarm of Contra Costa Fire resources due to the structure threat potential and limited water supply in the fire area.

While Battalion 2 was assessing the fire area, CalFire aircraft arrived on scene. The CalFire aircraft made retardant drops to slow the progress of the fire and protect the structures in the fire area. Crew 12 (Martinez) arrived and worked from the retardant line towards the threatened structures. Engine 13 (Martinez) arrived on scene and put hoselines in to slow the progress of the fire. The quick and decisive actions of the CalFire aircraft in coordination with the initial arriving crews was able to divert the fire from the threatened homes and slow the fire's rate of spread until other resources could arrive.

Additional resources from Contra Costa Fire, Moraga Orinda Fire, Rodeo Hercules Fire and East Bay Regional Parks fire arrived on scene and were assigned missions to assist with fire knockdown and containment. CalFire Copter 106 and Alma Helitack crew assisted with attacking the head of the fire. Upon arrival of the CalFire Battalion Chief, Contra Costa Fire and CalFire went into unified command of the incident. Cal Fire apparatus responded from Marin, Sonoma, and Napa counties due to CalFire Santa Clara Unit working a large vegetation fire in the Altamont at the same time as the incident.

Crews remained on scene for over four hours to complete mop up/overhaul of the fire area and to ensure that a handline was cut around the perimeter of the fire.

The fire burned approximately 10 acres, three vehicles, and some exterior debris piles. The fire appears to have been caused by a riding mower that was cutting grass.

Feel free to contact me if you have any comments or questions regarding this incident.

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