DATE: 7/27/23  
TIME OF ALARM: 4:45:20 PM  
TYPE OF ALARM: Vegetation Fire with Structure Response  
LOCATION: Willow Pass Rd. at N. Bella Monte Ave.  
RESPONSE: 3rd Alarm: 14 Engines, 3 Trucks, 1 Rescue, 2 Water Tenders, 1 Handcrew, 4 Battalion Chiefs, 1 District Chief, 1 Deputy Chief, 1 Safety Officer, 1 Breathing Support, 1 Incident Support Unit, 1 Dozer operator, 3 Investigators, 1 Telcom  
ASSISTING AGENCIES: Contra Costa County Sheriff, PG&E, Red Cross  
TOTAL FIRE PERSONNEL AT SCENE: 84

Contra Costa County Fire responded to a reported vegetation fire behind a building at the corner of Willow Pass Rd. and N. Bella Monte Ave. The initial report was of a small area of grass on fire no larger than the size of a car. Due to the winds, the fire quickly extended up and into a large eucalyptus tree. The windy conditions in the area contributed to rapid fire spread as the tree began to throw embers across a three block area from N. Bella Monta to Crivello Ave.

Engine 86 (Bay Point) arrived on scene within four minutes and reported grass, brush and a tree on fire. Captain E86 quickly identified that there were multiple fires starting to the east of their location and announced it over the radio. Due to the radio report, the second arriving engine, Engine 87, diverted to Highway Ave. and found a residential structure fire in a duplex. E87 requested additional resources and took action to prevent further fire spread to additional structures.

Due to the dynamic nature and rapid fire growth caused by the wind driven embers, the incident was upgraded to 3 alarms. Firefighters initiated coordinated fire attack, search and ventilation operations on the structure fire, while also suppressing vegetation fires on all three blocks.

Crews remained on scene for over three hours to complete overhaul of the residence and vegetation areas and to ensure that all fires were fully extinguished.

The Red Cross provided seven residents displaced from three residences by the incident with emergency housing and other support.

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

David Watson, Assistant Chief  
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