DATE: 09/03/2023  
TIME OF ALARM: 2:43 am  
TYPE OF ALARM: 2 Alarm Commercial Structure Fire  
LOCATION: 1463 Balhan Dr. Concord, Ca.  
RESPONSE: 8 Engines, 3 Trucks, 1 Rescue, 2 Battalion Chiefs, 1 District Chief, 1 Safety Officer, 1 Breathing Support, and 1 Fire Investigator  
ASSISTING AGENCIES: Con Fire/EMS, PG&E, & Concord PD  
TOTAL FIRE PERSONNEL AT SCENE: 50

Contra Costa Fire responded to a reported commercial structure fire in an apartment building at 1463 Balhan Dr. in the City of Concord. Engine 8(Concord) arrived on scene and reported heavy smoke and fire from the second floor apartment of a 3 story complex. They established Balhan Incident Command, declared a working fire, and established a water supply.

The incident quickly escalated to a 2nd alarm response due to the occupancy type, exposures, and reported rescue of a family. Firefighters initiated size-up, search, fire attack, and vertical ventilation operations. Three occupants were trapped in their apartment and were rescued by firefighters via a window by ladder put in place by firefighters. A family of five was able to escape the fire unit prior to fire department arrival. Adjacent units were searched and evacuated. Three additional residents and a dog self evacuated prior to our arrival as well.

There were no reported Firefighter injuries or injuries to the public. Crews were successful in extinguishing the fire and limiting the spread to the two upper floor units saving 18 attached apartment units. Firefighters worked very hard in challenging conditions in the early morning hours extinguishing and overhauling the fire and assuring that the adjacent apartments were safe for occupancy. The cause of this fire is under investigation. This incident highlights the importance of evacuating fires quickly, closing doors as you retreat, and practicing exit drills in the home. Residents displaced by this incident were provided with support from the American Red Cross for emergency housing and other needs.