



## ***Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Incident Notification***

**DATE:** 1/12/2024

**TIME OF ALARM:** 7:59:00 PM

**TYPE OF ALARM:** Multi-Alarm Rescue Fire

**LOCATION:** 1765 Countrywood Ct, Walnut Creek CA

**RESPONSE:** Commercial Second Alarm: 8 Engines, 3 Trucks, 1 Rescue, 3 Battalion Chiefs, 1 Safety Officer, 1 Breathing Support, 1 District Chief

**ASSISTING AGENCIES:** Walnut Creek PD, AMR, PGE

**TOTAL FIRE PERSONNEL AT SCENE:**36

Contra Costa County Fire crews responded to a structure fire in Walnut Creek. Upon arrival Engine 10 (Concord) declared a working fire with heavy smoke and flames from the front side of the building. A few seconds later, Captain 10 declared "Rescue Mode" with occupants trapped. Rescue Mode is significant in that strategies and tactics change and the level of risk versus gain is increased. All efforts from incoming firefighters change to rescuing potential victims immediately.

The second arriving unit, Engine 7 (Walnut Creek) was tasked with VES (vent/enter/search) on the opposite side of Engine 10. VES is a high risk tactic used to enter through a window or door, unprotected by a hoseline, isolating the room entered by closing the door, and quickly searching for victims (see below photo). In this situation, Engine 7 quickly located the victim with no visibility and very smokey conditions. At the same moment, Truck 1 (Walnut Creek) was performing roof top ventilation. This quickly lifted the smoke conditions, changed the visibility, and gave the victim a fresher source of air.

Because of the height of the window, interior crews were unable to lift the victim to the window and out. The smoke and fire would not allow crews to move the victim back through the house and out at that time. Engine 8 (Concord) was on the exterior and utilizing quick thinking and creativity, cut from the bottom of the window on both sides to essentially turn the window into a door(see photo). The victim was removed to an awaiting gurney and transported to the hospital.

Fire personnel that rode in with the medic unit stated that the patient had agonal breathing at the start of transport, but by arrival at the hospital was following commands and squeezing the hand of a firefighter. Because of the professionalism, commitment to the community, realistic training, and aggressiveness of fire officers, a person is still alive today.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Kevin Platt, Battalion Chief; [kplat@cccfd.org](mailto:kplat@cccfd.org)

