



# City of Woodland

## REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR  
AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: June 1, 2010

SUBJECT: Certificate of Outstanding Service Recognizing Those Responsible for  
the Successful Rescue from a Burning Building

### **Report in Brief**

On the evening of Saturday, April 17, 2010 a fire broke out inside a commercial building on the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Oak Streets and the sole occupant found himself disoriented and trapped in the dense smoke. A passing Police Sergeant spotted the smoke and radioed the fire into the 911 Communications Center. The Dispatchers processed the information and a sequence of events followed including a response from the Fire Department, the rescue of the trapped occupant and transport of the occupant to the UC Davis Medical Center. The occupant was treated for his injuries and released from the hospital after several days in the intensive care unit (ICU).

Staff recommends that the City Council present a Certificate of Outstanding Service acknowledging each emergency worker involved in the sequence of events leading to the successful outcome of this potentially tragic incident.

### **Background**

On the evening of Saturday, April 17, 2010 a man was working inside of the commercial building located on the southeast corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Oak Streets when a fire broke out. The man tried to use portable fire extinguishers in the building to extinguish the fire; however, the fire continued to burn. The material burning was predominately rubber giving off dense black smoke. During his efforts to extinguish the fire the man tripped and fell to the floor where he sustained a laceration to the head and became disoriented. The building filled with smoke preventing the occupant from seeing where he was going and causing him to become further disoriented.

Woodland Police Sergeant Steve Sexton was driving through the area and smelled smoke. He investigated the smell and found the smoke coming from a metal building and radioed his observations to the Yolo Emergency Communications Agency (YECA) at 10:34 p.m. Dispatcher II Brandy Hoffman was the Police Dispatcher that evening that received the fire information from Sexton and then relayed this information to Dispatcher II Tammy Lancaster, the Fire Dispatcher. Lancaster promptly dispatched three fire engines (Engines 1, 2 and 3), one ladder truck (Truck 3),

and a Battalion Chief to the fire as the standard compliment of Woodland Fire Department resources sent to any reported structure fire. This occurred at 10:35 p.m.

The first fire engine arrived at 10:39 p.m., and the officer on that engine, Captain Jim Dahl, reported a “working fire” in a metal commercial structure. Dahl and his crew started pulling hose-lines off of their engine that would be used to attack the fire. Battalion Chief Greg Robinson arrived, established himself as the Incident Commander and directed incoming crews to identify the location of the fire, to determine the best access points, and to get inside the building to extinguish the fire. The smoke grew blacker and thicker as the crews readied to go inside.

The crew from Truck 3 forced entry into the building using rotary powered saws as the crews from two engine companies (Engines 1 and 3), dragging 2.5” diameter hose-lines, crawled inside to stay below the heat and smoke. Once inside, Captain Kevin Kanzler (Engine 3) heard a cry for help alerting them to the rescue situation. Kanzler immediately radioed this to Robinson (Incident Commander) and to all of the firefighting units at the scene. The smoke was so thick that Firefighter Matt Stokes (Engine 3) tried to wipe the soot off the face-mask to his self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) at one point in hopes of improving his visibility, but found no improvement. As Stokes crawled he was sweeping his hands out in front of him and side to side to feel his way when he felt the leg of the occupant, standing in the smoke.

Stokes called for help from the other firefighters in the building and then told the occupant (now a rescue victim), who was severely disoriented and about to lose consciousness from smoke inhalation, to get down on the floor. As Stokes began dragging the victim to the open door he immediately received help from Firefighter Harley Halseth (Engine 1), Kanzler, and Dahl who were inside with him. The smoke was so thick and there was so much equipment and so many materials stored in the building that there was no clear path directly to the door. Captain Mark Brooks (Engine 2) came in next to help followed by Captain Chris Delcour (Truck 3) and Engineer Walter Scruggs (Truck 3) who assisted in clearing the victim from some entanglement. Once freed, Scruggs and Delcour sat the victim upright, and then Scruggs and Firefighter Dustin Consol (Engine 2) lifted the victim and carried him over some debris and outside to the waiting ambulance crew. To complete this rescue effort and successfully remove the victim from the building took the combined effort of eight firefighters taking turns dragging and lifting the patient over objects and debris to a safe environment. Having found one occupant, crews returned inside to search the entire building for the possibility of more occupants.

American Medical Response (AMR) was standing by outside of the building, as is protocol for all “working structure fires”. Paramedic Arlen Soghomonians and EMT Matthew Dingman immediately assumed patient care from the firefighters, who helped load the victim (now patient) into the ambulance. AMR immediately left the scene in route to the UC Davis Medical Center at 10:59 p.m.

The patient in this case was admitted to the intensive care unit at the UCD Medical Center for several days before being released.

**SUBJECT:** Certificate of Outstanding Service Recognizing Those  
Responsible for the Successful Rescue from a Burning Building

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**ITEM:**

Staff believes that the extraordinary efforts of the individuals in this case deserve recognition. The victim who was the beneficiary of this rescue effort and the first responders will be present at the June 1 meeting to receive the certificates.

**Recommendation for Action**

Staff recommends that the City Council present a Certificate of Outstanding Service acknowledging each emergency worker involved in the sequence of events leading to the successful outcome of this potentially tragic incident.

Prepared by: Tod Reddish  
Fire Chief

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Mark G. Deven  
City Manager

# City of Woodland

## CERTIFICATE OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE RECOGNIZING THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUCCESSFUL RESCUE FROM A BURNING BUILDING

**WHEREAS**, on Saturday night, April 17, 2010 at 10:34 p.m., Woodland Police Department Sergeant Steve Sexton witnessed smoke coming from a commercial building at 6<sup>th</sup> and Oak Streets while on routine patrol and radioed this information to the Yolo Emergency Communication Agency (YECA); and

**WHEREAS**, Dispatcher II Brandy Hoffman was the Police Dispatcher who received this information and immediately relayed it to Dispatcher II Tammy Lancaster, the Fire Dispatcher, who dispatched the Woodland Fire Department; and

**WHEREAS**, Fire Department units began arriving at 10:39 p.m. and initiated efforts to force entry and get inside to extinguish the fire; and

**WHEREAS**, Fire Captains Kevin Kanzler and Jim Dahl and Firefighters Harley Halseth and Matt Stokes entered the burning building with hose lines; and

**WHEREAS**, interior crews heard a cry for help as they crawled through the dense black smoke; and

**WHEREAS**, Firefighter Stokes was the first to locate the occupant, disoriented and about to lose consciousness; and

**WHEREAS**, Firefighter Halseth and Captains Kanzler and Dahl immediately helped with the rescue; and

**WHEREAS**, Captains Mark Brooks and Chris Delcour, Engineer Walter Scruggs, and Firefighter Dustin Consol also assisted with physically removing the victim from the building; and

**WHEREAS**, Battalion Chief Greg Robinson commanded the incident while Engineers Jim Burgess, Jim Zuniga, and Sam Kennedy, and Firefighter Tara Daniels supported the rescue efforts and fought the fire; and

**WHEREAS**, American Medical Response Paramedic Arlen Soghomonians and EMT Matthew Dingman received the patient at about 10:59 p.m., and transported him to the UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento where he was admitted for several days; and

**WHEREAS**, the patient has been released from the hospital; and

**NOW, THEREFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODLAND DOES HEREBY** recognize, commend and congratulate all emergency response personnel who contributed to the successful rescue, treatment and recovery of the patient.

DATED: June 1, 2010

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Marlin H. Davies, Mayor

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Artemio Pimentel, Vice-Mayor

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Martie L. Dote, Council Member

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William L. Marble, Council Member

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Jeff W. Monroe, Council Member