

## INCIDENT NEWS RELEASE

**Release Date / Time: 3/27/2010** 8:56 PM

**Incident Type:** <u>Structure Fire</u>

**Incident Location:** 737 West Cross Street

Incident Date/Time: 03/26/2010 05:03 am

Incident Number: F 01001045

**Incident Reported:** Woodland Fire Companies were dispatched to a reported structure fire at 737 W. Cross Street at 05:03 am on Friday March 26, 2010. The first arriving unit found the structure fully involved with fire through the roof and the house next door threatened.

Number of Units Responding: 13 total, 7 Engines, 2 Truck, 1 Rescue and 3 Chief Officers

Woodland FD responded: 3 Engines 1 Ladder Truck(s) 2 Others

Mutual Aid Units from: Willow Oak 1 Engine, and Davis Fire Dept 2 Engines,

West Sacramento 1 Engine, and 1 Truck and 1 Chief from

**UCDavis** 

Number of Personnel: 33 On-Duty 6 Off-Duty 1 Volunteer 20 of the 41 personnel were from Mutual Aid companies.

<u>Incident found on arrival</u>: The first arriving engine found the fire through the roof and full involvement inside the structure. In addition to first attack lines being placed, an exposure control line was place on the residence next door. First alarm companies provided fire attack, exposure protection and ventilation. A Second Alarm was requested because of the massive amount of fire load inside of the structure (i.e., belongings stacked 3' high throughout), the tremendous amount of fire and heat firefighters faced, and the potential for exposed structures catching fire.

**Action taken:** Engine 1 (E-1) initiated fire attack with a 2.5" diameter hose line reserved for very large fires such as those found in a commercial structure. Engine 2 assisted with fire attack and provided the OSHA mandated back-up function. These crews encountered heavy fire upon entering the structure due to the fire loading and were unable to advance into the structure due to the amount of fire, the amount of heat, and the likelihood that they could get into the structure and be surrounded by fire everywhere cutting off their escape route. Engine 3 provided exposure protection and extinguishment and Truck-3 provided vertical ventilation of the structure trying to give the firefighters inside a safer and clearer environment to work in. Ventilation efforts did not help and conditions inside the building continued to deteriorate at which time all companies were backed out of the building for their safety. An accountability check of all firefighters on-scene was conducted and all personnel were out and accounted for. At that time firefighters went to a "defensive" attack and used hand-lines and an aerial master stream from the ladder truck to attack the fire from the exterior. Second Alarm companies began to arrive and were assigned to exposure protection and fire attack. Once the fire was under control approximately 1 hour into the incident, we began the process of overhaul to be sure all of the fire had been extinguished. This was a strenuous and time consuming assignment that involved eight companies of firefighters (four from Woodland, one from Davis, one from UC Davis, and one from West Sacramento) due to the massive amount of belongings inside the home. An investigation is underway to determine cause and origin.

The structure of origin is a total loss, but the neighboring structures sustained little to no damage due to the diligent efforts of the firefighters on scene.

Fire Chief Tod Reddish said: "This should have been a "bread and butter" fire as a single-story, single-family structure. In fact, this would have been considered a "low-hazard" structure fire by the National Fire Protection Association, the national agency that sets firefighting standards, just due to its size. This fire was anything but low-hazard with the amount of belongings and combustible material in that home. You never know from the outside of structure what hazards lie within that can injure, disorient, and trap occupants trying to escape, can prevent firefighters from entering to fight the fire or perform a rescue, or can even prevent the firefighter's escape once they get inside. The fire loading of this structure contributed to this fire being so well developed by the time we arrived that crews were at a disadvantage from the very beginning. This fire demanded lots of manpower and water just to hold this fire to the structure of origin and not lose the neighboring homes. Crews attacked this fire with "big water" from large diameter hand lines and this fire pushed them back outside. Although the occupant sustained smoke inhalation before exiting the home, we are so thankful she got out on her own".

Injuries: 1 Civilians/Injury Type: Smoke Inhalation

<u>Injuries:</u> <u>0</u> <u>Firefighters/Injury Type:</u>

Damage/Loss: \$400,000

ESTIMATED PROPERTY VALUE SAVED: \$700,000

Other:

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