

Fire Department
755 Marshall Street
Redwood City, CA 94063



Battalion Chief (650) 780-7455
Fax 650) 780-7461
www.redwoodcity.org

ALARM ACTIVITY REPORT

DATE OF INCIDENT: August 14, 2005
ADDRESS OF ALARM: 1230 Whipple Ave
NATURE: Structure fire
TIME: 2:57 AM
UNDER CONTROL: 3:15 AM
UNITS ON SCENE: Four Alarms
13 Engine Companies
4 Truck Companies
5 Battalion Chiefs
INJURIES: One firefighter suffered first degree burns to his ears
CAUSE: Under Investigation by Fire Prevention

STRUCTURE DAMAGE: \$ 375,000
CONTENTS DAMAGE: \$ 75,000

SYNOPSIS OF ALARM: Redwood City Firefighters along with other San Mateo County Fire agencies responded to a report of an explosion, and upon arrival they found one unit in a 24 unit, four story apartment house, involved in fire. The two occupants of the unit involved were forced to flee without their clothes or any possessions. A second and third alarm were called to assist in controlling and extinguishing the fire. The fire was contained to the unit of origin with some smoke damage to the exterior hallway. Units below the fire suffered extensive water damage. The fourth alarm was called for salvage operations on the floors below the fire and to allow the first arriving units a chance to rehab. Firefighters used their thermal imaging camera to check for fire extension and found none. Of the 24 units in the apartment house only nine units were uninhabitable due to water damage to the units and their electrical utilities. Red Cross assisted in finding shelter for two of the units displaced. The other units are staying with relatives.

It is unknown whether there was a working smoke detector in the residence at the time of the fire. Please remember that a properly working smoke detector gives you the best chance to exit a residence when it is full of smoke. In 2003 there were 3925 civilian fire deaths in the United States alone. This was an increase of 16.1% over the previous year. Over 80% or 3125 of these fire deaths occurred in the home. This reflects an increase of 17.8% over the previous year.

The cause is under investigation by the Fire Prevention Bureau.

REPORTING OFFICER: Battalion Chief Jim Skinner