



PRESS RELEASE

City of Visalia Fire Department

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Two-alarm Condominium Fire Displaces 20 Residents

At approximately 1:00 a.m. early Sunday morning, June 1, 2014 the Visalia Fire Department responded to a report of residential structure fire located at 4713 W. School Street. The first fire unit that arrived observed heavy fire coming from 4715 W. School and extending rapidly to the units that were on both sides of main fire building. Fire crews initially tried to stop the fire with large attack lines due to the amount of fire that was showing, but encountered falling debris as they were conducting interior fire attack. As a result of the falling debris, fire crews then transitioned to extinguishing the fire from the exterior while using large attack lines and the aerial master stream. There were a total of six condominiums that were connected with a common attic. The fire started to intensify rapidly and a second alarm was called which dispatched three additional fire units to the scene. A total 5 fire engines, two fire trucks, and three Chief Officers responded which brought 24 fire personnel to the scene.

All of the residents that were home at the time of the fire were able to exit their houses prior to the arrival of the fire crews. Residents in two units were not home at the time of the fire. Due to shutting down the utilities to all of the units 20 residents were displaced. The American Red Cross was notified and responded to assist two of the families that requested assistance. There were no injuries to any civilians or fire personnel. One pet dog did perish as a result of the fire.

The original condominium that the fire started in was a total loss and three other units sustained moderate heat and smoke damage. All six units were estimated to be valued at \$710,000 and as a result of the fire caused approximately \$320,000 in property and content damage.

The cause of the fire is undetermined and currently under investigation.

While fire crews were in the overhaul stages of this fire, a second residential fire occurred on the north side of Visalia. Fire crews arrived and found a fully-involved house that was threatening nearby structures. Five fire engines, one truck, two Chief Officers and three units from the Tulare County Fire Department assisted with the extinguishment.

The fire caused approximately \$120,000 in damage to the structure which was a total loss.

The exact cause of the fire is undetermined and currently under investigation.

Approved By: Darrin Hughes, Battalion Chief

Release To: Media City Admin City Wide