

**LAFD****SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT SUMMARY**

BFC 07-043

Date Printed 6/4/2007

5/27/2007 TO 6/3/2007

INCIDENT DATE	INC. TIME	ADDRESS	COUNCIL	INCIDENT TYPE	F.S.	FIRE COMPANIES	TOTAL F/F'S	TOTAL R.A.S	OUTSIDE AGENCIES	F/F INJURIES	CIV. FATALITY	DOLLAR LOSS	TIME TO CONTROL
5/27/2007	2:21 PM	4602 Brazil St	4	Major Emergency Structure Fire	50	23	147	4		1	0	Still Being Tabulated	0 hours, 53 min.
	INC. #	F/F FATALITY								INCIDENT DURATION			
	0613	0								5 hours, 35 min.			

**FIRE DESTROYS CARS AND VACANT BUILDING IN ATWATER VILLAGE**

On Sunday, May 27, 2007 at 2:21 PM, 23 Companies of Los Angeles Firefighters, 4 LAFD Rescue Ambulances, 1 Arson Unit, 2 Urban Search and Rescue Units, 1 Hazardous Materials Squad, 3 EMS Battalion Captains, 3 Battalion Chief Officer Command Teams and 1 Division Chief Officer Command Team, a total of 147 Los Angeles Fire Department personnel, responded to a Major Emergency Structure Fire near 4602 Brazil Street in the Atwater Village area of Los Angeles. The aforementioned LAFD personnel were joined in Automatic Aid by 5 Engine Companies, 1 Truck Company and a Battalion Chief from the neighboring Glendale Fire Department, and 1 Battalion Chief from the nearby Burbank Fire Department. All responders operated under the Unified Command of LAFD Assistant Chief Terrance Manning and Glendale Fire Department Battalion Chief Robert Doyle. First to arrive Los Angeles Firefighters quickly navigated the remote portion of an industrial district to discover a vacant and aging one-story 50' x 100' commercial structure fully involved, with flames extending to vegetation, rubbish and densely stored new vehicles nearby. In a well-coordinated defensive operation, master hose streams were swiftly focused on the decrepit wooden structure, as flames fanned by 10 mile-per-hour winds took hold of unkempt and highly flammable vegetation, including palm trees as much as a quarter-mile away. The wind-driven embers drove fire north and east to the Los Angeles River, as teams of Firefighters worked multiple handlines on the distant flames, paying close heed to a busy adjacent railroad and high-voltage electrical lines above portions of the fire. Simultaneously, their colleagues sought to prevent rapid fire spread among dozens of closely parked vehicles stored bumper-to-bumper near the burning building. Weakened by the blaze, the ramshackle structure collapsed as a total loss. Despite the efforts of Firefighters, a total of 53 new passenger vehicles, including several sedans destined for livery service, were damaged or destroyed by fire. During the intense battle against the flames, one Los Angeles Firefighter sustained a sizeable laceration to his left hand. He was transported in good condition to Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center, where he was treated and released to remain off-duty. No other injuries were reported. Firefighter/Heavy Equipment Operators from the LAFD Tractor Company assisted with the prolonged overhaul of smoldering debris. Monetary loss from the fire is still being tabulated. Though witnesses place fire origin in close proximity to the vacant structure, the specific cause of the blaze remains categorized as "under investigation".

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5/27/2007	3:30 PM	10021 Amanita Ave	2	Brush Fire	74	14	88	2		0	0	Still Being Tabulated	0 hours, 48 min.
	INC. #	F/F FATALITY								INCIDENT DURATION			
	0686	0								3 hours, 31 min.			

**SWIFT MULTI-AGENCY RESPONSE TACKLES TUJUNGA WILDFIRE**

On Sunday, May 27, 2007 at 3:30 PM, 14 Companies of Los Angeles Firefighters, 2 LAFD Rescue Ambulances, 1 LAFD Brush Patrol, 1 Arson Unit, 2 Helicopters, 1 EMS Battalion Captain, 3 Battalion Chief Officer Command Teams and 1 Division Chief Officer Command Team, a total of 88 Los Angeles Fire Department personnel, responded to a Greater Alarm Brush Fire near 10021 Amanita Avenue in Tujunga. Because the site was in a Mutual Threat Zone, the aforementioned LAFD responders were joined in Automatic Aid by the Glendale, Burbank and Pasadena Fire Departments, as well as Angeles National Forest Firefighters and the Los Angeles County Fire Department, with all personnel operating under Unified Command. Los Angeles Firefighters arrived first in a period of High Fire Danger to find as much as one acre of medium-to-heavy brush ablaze, being fanned by light winds and threatening several homes. The first arriving Firefighters anchored the flames of the terrain-driven blaze and were soon joined by their ground-based colleagues in flanking the fire as Fire Department helicopters commenced a synchronous barrage of water and foam drops to stem the head of the fire before any structures were damaged. This swift and well-practiced multi-agency effort of more than 100 Firefighters on the ground and in the air limited the fire to two acres. The blaze was extinguished in less than 48 minutes, and an overhaul of the rolling terrain was subsequently accomplished by four Los Angeles County Fire Department handcrews promptly and proactively dispatched to the scene. There were no injuries or formal evacuations. The cause of this fire remains under active investigation.

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5/29/2007	10:06 AM	9601 N. Canoga Av.	12	HAZ MAT	96	9	70	5		0	0	Still Being Tabulated	In Progress
	INC. #	F/F FATALITY								INCIDENT DURATION			
	0322	0								In Progress			

**AMMONIA LEAK AT NESTLE HOT POCKETS PROCESSING PLANT**

On Tuesday, May 29, 2007 at 10:06 AM, 9 Companies of Los Angeles Firefighters, 5 LAFD Rescue Ambulances, 2 Hazardous Materials Teams, 1 EMS Battalion Captain, 2 Battalion Chief Officer Command Teams, 1 Division Chief Officer Command Team, DOT, L.A. County Health and an LAPD Haz Mat unit all under the direction of Assistant Chief Timothy Manning responded to a Haz Mat incident at 9601 N. Canoga Av. in the Chatsworth area.

Los Angeles Firefighters, responding to a reported Hazardous Materials incident at the Nestle's Hot Pockets processing plant, found the 240 facility employees self evacuating. Fire personnel assumed control of the evacuation in preparation of any medical assistance that may be needed. One 36 year old male was transported to an area hospital complaining of abdominal pain and nausea.

The scene Facility Engineer advised Fire Department personnel that the internal Emergency Service team was assessing the situation. The leak, in the 60,000 gallon ammonia refrigerant system, was isolated and all valves were closed in anticipation of administering a patching system. Utilizing atmospheric monitoring devices, the levels were recorded between 200 and 500 parts-per-million (ppm). Canoga Avenue was shut down in both directions for safety. The Incident Commander opted to shelter surrounding occupants in place, rather than issuing evacuation orders as winds were not a factor at 2 mph. The men and women of the Los Angeles Fire Department assisted in the ventilation of the building, reducing the toxic concentration to acceptable levels in order for the employees to rehouse. Business operations were shut down for the remainder of the day to facilitate the repair.

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5/29/2007	10:12 AM	3062 S. Crenshaw Bl	10	Multi Patient Traffic	34	1	14	4		0	0	Still Being Tabulated	1 hour, 15 min.
	INC. #	F/F FATALITY								INCIDENT DURATION			
	0332	0								1 hour, 15 min.			

**MTA BUS REAR ENDS UTILITY VAN INJURING 13**

On Tuesday, May 29, 2007 at 10:12 AM, 1 Company of Los Angeles Firefighters, 4 LAFD Rescue Ambulances, 1 EMS Battalion Captain all under the direction of Captain I Sean Conway responded to a Multi Patient Traffic at 3062 S. Crenshaw Bl in the Leimert Park area.

Fire resources arrived on scene of an MTA bus which had rear ended a utility van. A quick assessment of all passengers of both vehicles utilizing the S.T.A.R.T. System of triage, found 13 patients complaining of minor injuries. The passengers of the utility van were treated and released at the scene.

The MTA bus passengers consisted of students, from L.A. Tech High School. A total of 7 patients were transported to area hospitals. Three females were transported, one 18 year old complaining of minor neck and back pain. One female, 8 months pregnant, with a complaint of lower left flank pain. The last patient was c-spined with neck pain. Four males were transported, one 16 year old complained of hip pain, one 20 year old with minor neck and back pain and the two remaining patients with complaints of head and lower musculoskeletal back pain.

The cause of the traffic accident is under the investigation of the MTA, LAPD and the Sheriff's department.

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6/1/2007	4:33 AM	7002 N. Havenhurst Av.	6	Greater Alarm Structure Fire	100	15	102	4		0	0	\$175,000	0 hours, 32 min.
	INC. #	F/F FATALITY								INCIDENT DURATION			
	0142	0								4 hours, 27 min.			

**SEVEN DISPLACED IN EARLY MORNING GREATER ALARM FIRE**

On Friday, June 1, 2007 at 4:33 AM, 15 Companies of Los Angeles Firefighters, 4 LAFD Rescue Ambulances, 1 Arson Unit, 1 Urban Search and Rescue Unit, 1 Hazardous Materials Team, 2 EMS Battalion Captains, 3 Battalion Chief Officer Command Teams, 1 Division Chief Officer Command Team, the Department of Water and Power, DOT, the Red Cross and the Gas Co. all under the direction of Battalion Chief John Duca responded to a Greater Alarm Structure Fire at 7002 N. Havenhurst Av. in the West Van Nuys area.

Fire Department resources responded to a reported structure fire in a 2 story, garden style, apartment complex. First arriving companies found one unit on the second floor with heavy smoke and fire showing. Additional recon of the building indicated the fire had extended into the attic space. A well coordinated and aggressive defensive attack was initiated. Ventilation was slowed by a gas fed fire, which resulted from the melting of PVC piping which fed the roof top AC/Heating unit. Once utilities were shut down, ventilation operations commenced.

The nine unit apartment complex suffered damage to only four units from firefighting operations during the attempt to gain access to the attic fire. As a result, seven adults (6 males and 1 female) were displaced and the Red Cross was notified to address their immediate housing needs.

The men and women of the Los Angeles Fire Department extinguished the fire in just 32 minutes, and there were no civilian or firefighter injuries. The cause of this fire is under active investigation and the preliminary dollar loss is listed at \$175,000 (\$150,000 structure, \$25,000 contents). DWP and the Gas Company were called to address the compromise to the electrical system for the building and the gas feed to the AC/Heating unit.

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6/3/2007	6:52 PM	1074 N. Milwaukee Av.	14	Structure Fire	12	4	32	2		0	0	\$120,000	0 hours, 28 min.
	INC. #	F/F FATALITY								INCIDENT DURATION			
	0889	0								4 hours, 19 min.			

**FIREFIGHTERS BATTLE STUBBORN FIRE IN HIGHLAND PARK HOME**

On Sunday, June 3, 2007 at 6:52 PM, 4 Companies of Los Angeles Firefighters, 2 LAFD Rescue Ambulances, 1 Arson Unit, 1 Hazardous Materials Team, 1 EMS Battalion Captain, 1 Battalion Chief Officer Command Team, Bldg & Safety, DWP and L.A. County Health, all under the direction of Battalion Chief Chris Logan responded to a Structure Fire at 1074 N. Milwaukee Av. in the Highland Park area.

The first arriving Fire Department resources on scene found a small amount of grass burning which had extended into the attic of the single family residence located on the property. A preliminary interior search revealed all occupants had self evacuated the structure.

First responders "ramped up" up operations of companies assigned to interior firefighting and roof top ventilation, realizing the exposure problem if the fire extended into the grass and surrounding structures. The first ventilation hole revealed heavy, thick and pressurized smoke. Could there be two ceilings in this slightly remodeled home? The persistent fire re-ignited several times as firefighters continued their defensive efforts gaining control of the blaze.

It took the men and women of the Los Angeles Fire Department 28 minutes to get a knockdown on the stubborn attic fire. As the smoke cleared, a large quantity of aerosol cans, containing different types of flammable liquids, were discovered illegally stored in the attic space. A Hazardous Materials Squad was dispatched to assist in the identification of the containers.

Assistance from other agencies was also requested. DWP was notified that a two block area around the incident, serving approximately 30 single family residences, was without power. Service was restored to the area around midnight. Building & Safety will determine the structural integrity of the residence. L.A. County Health will handle the disposal and cleanup of the illegal storage.

The cause of the fire was accidental and dollar loss is estimated at \$120,000 (\$80,000 structure, \$20,000 contents). There were not injuries to civilians or firefighters. The 72 year old female occupant of the residence was transported to an area hospital after being advised she could not remain in the home for safety reasons. The occupants will seek temporary housing with family members.

