

**LAFD****SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT SUMMARY****Emergency Public Information Center**

BFC # 08-030

Meeting Date 3/11/2008

3/3/2008 TO 3/10/2008

**MAR 18, 2008**

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
3/5/2008	10:50 PM	9757 N. Arleta Av.	6	Structure Fire	7	5	33	2		0	0	\$2,000	0 hours, 15 min.
	INC. #	F/F FATALITY								INCIDENT DURATION			
	1279	0								3 hours, 52 min.			

**ARSON TASK FORCE INVESTIGATES ARLETA CHURCH FIRE**

On Wednesday, March 5, 2008 at 10:50 PM, 5 Companies of Los Angeles Firefighters, 2 LAFD Rescue Ambulances, 1 Arson Unit, 1 EMS Battalion Captain, 1 Battalion Chief Officer Command Team, all under the direction of Battalion Chief Dan McCarty, responded to a Structure Fire at 9757 Arleta Avenue in the Arleta area. Fire resources responding to the incident found an outside fire on the property of the Arleta Assembly of God Church. Because of the quick response by fire personnel the fire was knocked down in only fifteen minutes and the damage to the property was limited to the door, under the eaves and one broken window. The pastor and some employees of the church were unaware that there was a fire on the property until the arrival of Fire personnel. There were no injuries. Damage was estimated at \$2,000 to the exterior of the structure. Pursuant of protocol, the regional 'House of Worship Arson Task Force' was deployed to the scene, and have declared the blaze to be arson. The incident remains an active investigation by the Task Force member agencies.

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3/6/2008	7:10 AM	329 South Thurston Ave	5	Landslide	37	9	68	4		0	0	Still Being Tabulated	7 hours, 20 min.
	INC. #	F/F FATALITY								INCIDENT DURATION			
	0182	0								15 hours, 13 min.			

**LANDSLIDE CLOSES BUSY LOS ANGELES THOROUGHFARE**

On Thursday, March 6, 2008 at 7:10 AM, 9 Companies of Los Angeles Firefighters, 4 LAFD Rescue Ambulances, 1 Urban Search & Rescue Unit, 1 Heavy Rescue, 1 LAFD Front Load Tractor; 1 Rehab Unit, 1 Emergency Lighting Unit, 1 Helicopter, 1 EMS Battalion Captain, 1 Battalion Chief Officer Command Team and 1 Division Chief Officer Command Team, a total of 68 Los Angeles Fire Department personnel under the direction of Assistant Chief Daniel McCarthy, responded to a Non-Injury Landslide near 329 South Thurston Avenue in Westwood. Responding to reports of electric wires arcing in a tree "near Montana Avenue", Firefighters arrived quickly to discover high-voltage lines tangled and ablaze in a eucalyptus tree that had shifted to the base of a hillside between Thurston Avenue and Sepulveda Boulevard. As Firefighters affirmed the event to be caused by soil movement, they briskly established a safety perimeter and traffic control while summoning additional LAFD personnel and the Department of Water and Power. While preparing a hoseline to be used from a safe distance to tackle the now burning tree, a large section of the bluff suddenly gave way a distance from Firefighters, sending tons of muddy earth and vegetation, including eucalyptus and pepper trees, crashing across, and all-but obliterating, often-busy Sepulveda Boulevard. Though no vehicles, pets or persons were struck by or caught in the debris, the sudden escalation of events brought forth more than a dozen municipal agencies and civic leaders to work in concert in addressing the 100' wide by 6' deep mass, that had spread westward across 3 and 1/2 lanes of the four-lane-wide arterial boulevard at the height of rush hour. Within minutes, Los Angeles Fire Department specialists, including those trained and equipped in Urban Search and Rescue and the operation of heavy earthmoving equipment, were strategically deployed above and adjacent to the slide, Firefighters swiftly contacted residents above the hillside failure at 321, 329 and 335 South Thurston Avenue. An unspecified number of occupants were calmly led from the three homes pending the arrival of Department of Building and Safety Inspectors. With the City Departments of Transportation, Public Works and Police joining LAFD and DWP to perform core response and recovery functions, utilities were promptly secured in the immediate area as a City Geologist assessed the hillside. During this time, displaced residents were briefly escorted into their homes by LAFD Urban Search and Rescue teams to retrieve essential items. At approximately 1:30 PM, after the home at 329 South Thurston had been red-tagged by the Department of Building and Safety as "Unsafe to Occupy" and the homes at 321 and 335 were yellow-tagged as permitting only "Restricted Use", the cleanup of Sepulveda Boulevard was permitted to proceed, and continued into the night. No injuries to civilians or responders were reported. The cause of the landslide was not determined by the Fire Department. The status of the hill and properties will be overseen by the City's Department of Building and Safety. The physical assessment and restoration of Sepulveda Boulevard will be handled by the City's Bureau of Street Services, while the announcement of lane reopenings and formal control of traffic remains within the purview of the City's Department of Transportation.

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3/7/2008	10:48 PM	10112 W. Riverside Dr.	4	Reported Smoke	86	9	76	6		1	0	Still Being Tabulated	0 hours, 43 min.
	INC. #	F/F FATALITY								INCIDENT DURATION			
	1256	0								4 hours, 14 min.			

***FIREFIGHTER INJURED IN LATE NIGHT STUDIO CITY FIRE***

On Friday, March 7, 2008 at 10:48 PM, 9 Companies of Los Angeles Firefighters, 6 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, DOT and DWP, all under the direction of Assistant Chief Jeffery S. Mottram, responded to a Reported Smoke at 10112 W. Riverside Dr. in the Studio City area.

Fire resources were dispatched to reports of smoke in the area of the 10000 block of Riverside Avenue. The first arriving company on scene found a two story row of commercials with light smoke coming from one unit on the first floor. As companies were trying to locate the source of the smoke, heavy fire and smoke erupted from the Toluca Lake Chiropractic office. Additional companies were requested. Firefighters worked diligently, deploying 2-1/2 inch hose lines to get water on the seat of the fire in concert with roof top ventilation. Additional companies were deployed to the second floor occupancies, checking for possible vertical extension of fire. Radio Shack, located directly above the fire origin, had smoke emanating from that occupancy, indicating a possible hazardous situation between the two floors. During the intense fire fight, a Firefighter stepped through a burned out area on the second floor and fell through to the first floor. He was immediately rescued and taken to the Medical Group, where he was evaluated, treated and transported to an area hospital with minor injuries.

It took approximately 76 Firefighters forty three minutes to get a knockdown called on the fire. The damage was contained to the storage area of the first floor Chiropractic office. The second floor storage area for Radio Shack sustained minor smoke damage. The dollar loss estimate and the cause of the late night blaze is undetermined until the completion of the investigation. The injured Firefighter was listed in stable condition and no other injuries were reported.