

**LAFD****SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT SUMMARY****Emergency Public Information Center**BFC # **08-032**Meeting Date **3/11/2008**

MAR 18 2008

**3/10/2008 TO 3/17/2008**

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
3/11/2008	4:09 AM	930 W. Wilshire Bl.	9	Hazardous Material Investigation	3	6	55	7		0	0	Still Being Tabulated	1 hour, 41 min.
	INC. #									INCIDENT DURATION			
	0125	Civic Center								0			In Progress

**PEPPER SPRAY CAUSES EVACUATION OF 10TH FLOOR AT WILSHIRE GRAND HOTEL**

On Tuesday, March 11, 2008 at 4:09 AM, 6 Companies of Los Angeles Firefighters, 7 LAFD Rescue Ambulances, 1 Hazardous Materials Team, 3 EMS Battalion Captains, 1 Battalion Chief Officer Command Team, 1 Division Chief Officer Command Team, and LA County Health Haz Mat all under the direction of Battalion Chief Greg Gibson responded to a Hazardous Material Investigation at 930 W. Wilshire Bl. in the Civic Center area.

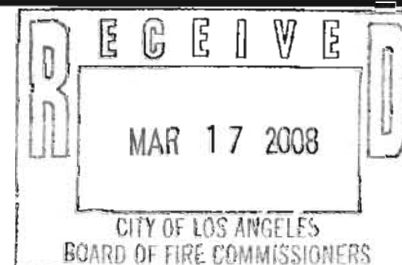
When Firefighters arrived on scene they were notified that occupants on the 10th floor of the Wilshire Grand Hotel were complaining of a "pepper spray" type smell. Firefighter in full protective gear ascended to the 10th floor where they evacuated approximately 100 people, until the source of the smell could be identified and confirmed as pepper spray. The residents were relocated to the lobby area and evaluated by Paramedics. In all, seven people were complaining of burning eyes and itchy throats, consistent with pepper spray exposure. Fortunately, none of the patients required transportation or suffered any serious effects from this exposure.

Los Angeles Firefighters along with LAPD and Los Angeles County Health Haz Mat determined that the substance was a pepper spray type of release. The circumstances of the release are under investigation. The occupants of the 10th floor were allowed to return after the lengthy investigation concluded.

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3/15/2008	6:13 PM	333 N Sierra Bonita Ave	5	Greater Alarm Structure Fire	61	10	83	5		0	0	\$200,000	0 hours, 29 min.
	INC. #									F/F FATALITY			INCIDENT DURATION
	0856	Fairfax								0			3 hours, 16 min.

**FIRE IN LOS ANGELES FOURPLEX DISPLACES TEN**

On Saturday, March 15, 2008 at 6:13 PM, 10 Companies of Los Angeles Firefighters, 5 LAFD Rescue Ambulances, 1 Arson Unit, 2 Urban Search and Rescue Units, 1 Hazardous Materials Team, 2 EMS Battalion Captains, 3 Battalion Chief Officer Command Teams and 1 Division Chief Officer Command Team, a total of 83 Los Angeles Fire Department personnel under the direction of Battalion Chief Ralph Ramirez, responded to a Greater Alarm Structure Fire at 333 North Sierra Bonita Avenue in the Fairfax District. Firefighters arrived quickly to discover smoke showing from a 2-story residential fourplex, and soon determined that fire had gained a stubborn foothold within the wood balloon frame walls and floors of the 80 year-old structure. As flames swept into the attic of the 5,728 square foot building, Firefighters employed tactical vertical ventilation to prevent fire spread, while their colleagues below used thermal imaging cameras to effectively guide hoselines to the seat of the fire. The flames were extinguished in just 29 minutes, and there were no injuries. Though structural and property loss were greatly minimized by LAFD strategy and teamwork, a total of ten residents were temporarily displaced, and stated a desire to seek their own accommodations. Fire loss is estimated at \$200,000 (\$150,000 structure & \$50,000 contents). The cause of the blaze remains under active investigation.



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3/16/2008	4:03 AM	4326 S. Leimert Bl.	8	Greater Alarm Structure Fire	94	12	80	4		0	0	\$295,000	0 hours, 36 min.
	INC. #									INCIDENT DURATION			
	0192	Baldwin Hills/Crenshaw								0			6 hours, 27 min.

**GREATER ALARM FIRE IN THE CRENSHAW DISTRICT**

On Sunday, March 16, 2008 at 4:03 AM, 12 Companies of Los Angeles Firefighters, 4 LAFD Rescue Ambulances, 1 Arson Unit, 2 EMS Battalion Captains, 3 Battalion Chief Officer Command Teams, 1 Division Chief Officer Command Team, DOT, the Housing Authority and the Red Cross, all under the direction of Assistant Chief Donald Austin responded to a Greater Alarm Structure Fire at 4326 S. Leimert Bl. in the Baldwin Hills/Crenshaw area.

Several frantic calls into the OCD Dispatch Center described a large amount of fire coming from two units in the apartment building next door. The first Fire Department resource on scene found a two story, six-plex with one unit on the second floor fully involved with fire. Additional companies were requested. Fire personnel made a concentrated effort to quickly extinguish the early morning fire and assure that all civilian personnel were evacuated from the building. The fire did extend into the attic space of the structure, but aggressive roof ventilation assisted by interior firefighting companies, kept the bulk of the fire in the attic and unit of the fire origin. Companies were immediately assigned salvage responsibilities for the units below, to minimize water damage and loss to person property.

It took approximately 80 Firefighters 36 minutes to extinguish the early morning fire and no injuries were reported. Six families were displaced and in need of Red Cross assistance. The case of the fire is undetermined pending the completion of the investigation. The dollar loss is estimated at \$295,000 [\$210,000 structure and \$85,000 contents]. The building complex had functional smoke detectors, which possibly assisted in the early evacuation of the building occupants.

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3/16/2008	2:12 PM	3184 W. 8th St.	10	Major Emergency Structure Fire	13	15	109	7		0	0	\$COR: 220,000	0 hours, 30 min.
	INC. #	F/F FATALITY								INCIDENT DURATION			
	0627	0								In Progress			

**MAJOR EMERGENCY FIRE DISRUPTS KOREATOWN**

On Sunday, March 16, 2008 at 2:12 PM, 15 Companies of Los Angeles Firefighters, 7 LAFD Rescue Ambulances, 1 Arson Unit, 2 Urban Search and Rescue Units, 3 EMS Battalion Captains, 3 Battalion Chief Officer Command Teams, 1 Division Chief Officer Command Team, Emergency Air, 2 CERT Team Coordinators, DWP, DOT, LAPD and the Red Cross, all under the direction of Assistant Chief Mark Stormes, responded to a Major Emergency Structure Fire at 3184 W. 8th St. in the Koreatown district.

Multiple 911 calls into the OCD Dispatch Center and responding Fire resources indicating a large "loom up" in the area, confirmed reports of a structure fire. Engine 13, first on scene, reported that one unit on the second floor of U-shaped, 4 story, 45 unit, center hall apartment building over a string of commercials had heavy smoke and fire showing and requested additional companies. As fire companies arrived on scene, there were additional reports of people trapped in a second floor unit and that fire was lapping upward to a unit on the third floor. As companies were assigned tasks, reports confirmed that the third floor had heavy smoke in the hallway. Again, additional companies were requested to assist in the blossoming fire fight.

An intense three-pronged attack was staged as companies were positioned to aggressively deploy handlines in the fire attack, while also concentrating on a primary search for residents and roof top ventilation providing occupants exit relief. It took 109 Firefighters thirty minutes to gain control of the fire and call a knock down. The Medical Group treated six patients, 5 adults and 1 child, transporting one female, 40, with smoke inhalation and a five month old for precautionary purposes from smoke exposure. The Red Cross was requested to assist 15 persons that were displaced, but the residents declined assistance, as the building management provided housing. CERT Team Coordinators assisted Emergency Air and the building residents. DOT was requested to shut down traffic in both directions on 8th Street between Mariposa and Catalina and LAPD assisted in controlling the multitude of spectators. The corrected estimated dollar loss is \$220,000 [\$150,000 structure and \$70,000 contents] and the cause of the afternoon fire is pending the completion of the investigation.