FIRE SWEEPS THROUGH FURNITURE BUSINESS IN L.A.'S INDUSTRIAL EASTSIDE

On Wednesday, September 1, 2010 at 12:33 AM, 11 Companies of Los Angeles Firefighters, 4 LAFD Rescue Ambulances, 1 Urban Search and Rescue Unit, 1 Hazardous Materials Team, 2 EMS Battalion Captains, 3 Battalion Chief Officer Command Teams and 1 Division Chief Officer Command Team, a total of 81 Los Angeles Fire Department personnel under the direction of Assistant Chief Daryl Arbuthnott, responded to a Greater Alarm Structure Fire at 1427 East 6th Street in the Artists District of L.A.'s Industrial Eastside.

Los Angeles Firefighters arrived quickly to find a pair of interconnected one-story commercial buildings measuring 75' x 100', well involved with fire. Firefighters swiftly took to the roof to perform vertical ventilation of intense heat and smoke as their colleagues forced entry into the business, extending handlines to do battle at the seat of the fire within the non-fire sprinklered building.

The bulk of the fire was confined to the westemmost part of the conjoined structures that contained furniture manufacturing. The flames were extinguished in just 33 minutes. No injuries were reported.

Fire loss to the manufacturing and storage facility for Peter Alexander Furniture - which included a vehicle parked within the business, was limited to $275,000 ($200,000 structure & $75,000 contents). The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

PLUMBER'S TORCH SPARKS STUBBORN BRENTWOOD BLAZE

On Wednesday, September 1, 2010 at 2:50 PM, 9 Companies of Los Angeles Firefighters, 6 LAFD Rescue Ambulances, 1 Rehab Tender, 3 EMS Battalion Captains, 1 Battalion Chief Officer Command Team and 1 Division Chief Officer Command Team, a total of 64 Los Angeles Fire Department personnel under the direction of Battalion Chief Ralph Ramirez, responded to a Greater Alarm Structure Fire at 485 Helvem Drive in the Los Angeles community of Brentwood.

Firefighters arrived quickly to find smoke showing from the improved attic of a 6,513 square-foot two-story single family home undergoing a major remodeling. Met by contractors who had been overseeing a plumbing upgrade, firefighters soon learned that a torch being used by a plumber had ignited construction materials within the walls and soon spread to the fully finished 'third-level' attic in the central portion of the expensive home.

With all construction workers safe and accounted for, comprehensive salvage efforts were swiftly undertaken as firefighters extended handlines to battle stubborn fire in concealed spaces throughout the 70 year-old non-fire sprinklered home.

Strategic vertical ventilation helped curtail the spread of fire, as firefighters used thermal imaging devices to find and abate the rapidly spreading fire. The relentless effort of firefighters confined flames to the central portion of the home, with the blaze fully extinguished in just 59 minutes. There were no injuries. Loss from the fire is estimated at $352,000 ($350,000 structure & $2,000 contents). The cause of this mid-afternoon blaze is categorized as accidental.
On Saturday, September 4, 2010 at 5:01 PM, 50 Companies of Los Angeles Firefighters, 3 LAFD Rescue Ambulances, 1 Arson Unit, 5 Helicopters, 2 EMS Battalion Captains, 4 Battalion Chief Officer Command Teams, 1 Division Chief Officer Command Team, 1 Water Tender, 1 Rehab Plug, 4 LACO Camp Crews under the direction of Assistant Chief Daryl Arbuthnott responded to a Major Emergency Brush Fire at Nb 405 Fwy At Getty Center Dr. in Brentwood.

Los Angeles Firefighters, arrived at yet another brush fire this season, along the hills near The Getty Center. Due to the already state of readiness and enhanced staffing for critical fire weather conditions, arriving crews discovered five acres of medium to heavy brush burning uphill adjacent to the 405 freeway. LAFD along with California Highway Patrol, secured the rightmost lanes of the busy freeway to begin anchoring the flames and working the flanks of the fire. The blaze moved towards a high ridge near homes below just on the other side.

Despite the calm winds, and with no 'Red Flag Warning' in effect for the City of Los Angeles, the flames still moved rapidly through the light and flashy fuels towards thicker brush. LAFD water dropping helicopters were quickly called into action and halted the advancement of the flames unreachable by ground crews. Additional fire personnel were strategically placed near homes to be safe guarded in case the fire reached any structures.

Due to the hard work and efforts of the helicopters above and the ground crews below, the fire was held to little less than 15 acres. It took over 275 firefighters 2 hours’ and 10 minutes to bring the flames under full containment. No structures were damaged during the incident and no evacuation went onto affect. The cause of the fire remains under an active investigation.
SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT SUMMARY

Emergency Public Information Center

Meeting Date: September 21, 2010

BFC: 10-157

8/31/2010 to 9/6/2010

INCIDENT DATE: 9/6/2010
INC. TIME: 3:23 PM
ADDRESS: 611 W 46th St
COUNCIL: 9
INCIDENT TYPE: Structure Fire
F.S.: 46
TOTAL FFs: 34
TOTAL R.A.S.: 3
OUTSIDE AGENCIES: 3
F.F. INJURES: 0
CIV. FATALITY: 0
TOTAL RM: 3
OUTSIDE AGENCIES: 3
F.F. INJURES: 0
CIV. FATALITY: 0
DOLLAR LOSS: $35,000
TIME TO CONTROL: 0 hours, 23 min.

SOUTH LOS ANGELES ELECTRICAL FIRE DISPLACES 20

On Monday, September 6, 2010 at 3:23 PM, 5 Companies of Los Angeles Firefighters, 3 LAFD Rescue Ambulances, 1 EMS Battalion Captain, 1 Battalion Chief Officer Command Team, a total of 34 Los Angeles Fire Department personnel under the direction of Battalion Chief Charles Combs, responded to a Structure Fire at 611 West 46th Street in South Los Angeles.

Los Angeles Firefighters arrived quickly to find smoke showing from a two-story 4,403 square-foot residential fourplex. Finding fire in the attic, firefighters commenced swift salvage operations to protect personal property by deploying tarpaulins within the structure and making judicious use of firefighting hosestreams. The well coordinated effort of firefighters confined flames to the building's common attic, extinguishing the blaze in just 23 minutes. There were no injuries.

Though loss from the fire was limited to $35,000 ($25,000 structure & $10,000 contents), the need to secure utilities rendered the building temporarily untenable. A total of twenty persons - 15 adults and 5 children - living in the residential fourplex were referred to the American Red Cross for interim placement assistance.

The cause of the fire was determined to be electrical in nature, and attributed to dated wiring in the 99 year-old building.