



LAFD

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT SUMMARY
Emergency Public Information Center

BFC # 10-116
Meeting Date **October 19, 2010**

9/13/2010 TO 9/20/2010

INCIDENT DATE	INC. TIME	ADDRESS	COUNCIL	INCIDENT TYPE	F.S.	FIRE COMPANIES	TOTAL F/FS	TOTAL R.A.S	OUTSIDE AGENCIES	F/F INJURIES	CIV. FATALITY	DOLLAR LOSS	TIME TO CONTROL
9/13/2010	1:50 PM	19161 W Sesnon Blvd	12	Brush Fire	8	15	94 LAFD	3		?	0	Still Being Tabulated	1 hour, 2 min.
	INC. #												
	0636	Porter Ranch											
										0	0		INCIDENT DURATION
													In Progress

BRUSH FIRE HALTED BEFORE BURNING OUT OF CONTROL

On Monday, September 13, 2010 at 1:50 PM, 15 Companies of Los Angeles Firefighters, 3 LAFD Rescue Ambulances, 3 Helicopters, 1 EMS Battalion Captain, 2 Battalion Chief Officer Command Teams, 1 Division Chief Officer Command Team, 2 Brush Patrols, 1 Rehab Tender, 2 Fixed-wing Super Scoopers, 1 Ericksons Airplane, & Los Angeles County Fire Department Personnel under the direction of Assistant Chief Patrick Butler responded to a Brush Fire at 19161 West Sesnon Boulevard in Porter Ranch.

Los Angeles Firefighters arrived in force to find half an acre of light brush burning just north of Sesnon Boulevard and Tampa Avenue. With haste, additional help was immediately requested and a Unified Command was rapidly established between Los Angeles Fire Department and Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD). Firefighters swiftly anchored the flames that were spreading uphill and northward. Fortunately, the fire was moving away from local residences, being driven by the topography and a light five mph wind. The swift arrival of precise water-dropping aircraft, along with hard working Firefighters who labored on the ground by extending progressive hose lays up steep terrain, halted the flames by 2:40 PM, before the blaze could burn over the next ridge and out of control. It took over 200 Firefighters just one hour and two minutes to bring the flames under full containment, but not before the fire had charred a total of 37 acres of grass and brush. No structures were damaged during the incident and no formal evacuation went into affect. Unfortunately three LACoFD Firefighters were injured, one suffered chest pains and two others sustained bee stings; all three were taken to a local hospital where they were treated and released. The cause of the fire remains under an active investigation.



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9/14/2010	7:27 AM	9750 W. Wanda Park Dr.	5	Major Emergency Structure	99	17	115	6		3	0	\$950,000	1 hour, 47 min.
	INC. #	Benedict Canyon		Fire						F/F FATALITY	CIV/INJURY		INCIDENT DURATION
	0186			0						0	8 hours, 7 min.		

LARGE RESIDENCE BURNS IN BENEDICT CANYON

On Tuesday, September 14, 2010 at 7:27 AM, 17 Companies of Los Angeles Firefighters, 6 LAFD Rescue Ambulances, 1 Arson Unit, 1 Urban Search and Rescue Unit, 2 Helicopters, 1 EMS Battalion Captain, 3 Battalion Chief Officer Command Teams, 1 Division Chief Officer Command Team, under the direction of Deputy Chief Mario Rueda responded to a Major Emergency Structure Fire at 9750 W. Wanda Park Dr. in Benedict Canyon.

Firefighters arrived quickly to the vicinity of Benedict Canyon, for reports of a large column of smoke in the brush area of the hills. Crews continued to search for the source, while making there way up through very narrow roads, to a long drive way. They quickly discovered heavy smoke coming from a two story 10,000 square foot residence.

Firefighters made entry into the home but were driven back by intense heat and voluminous flames that filled the structure. As personnel began to douse the fire they were met with the challenge of an extremely low water supply. Due to the small roadways, equipment had to be hiked up the long and steep drive way before any additional personnel could join the fight.

Transitioning to a defensive attack and with the closest hydrant being over 1500 feet away, water had to come from another source. Thanks to the fast thinking of the first arriving engine company, who were able to siphon water from a pool located on the premises, until a more permanent water supply could be established. Firefighters could now re-enter the structure and commence an offensive attack of the flames.

Because of the amount of brush around the building, slight winds and concern for flying embers, an LAFD helicopter was assigned for aerial reconnaissance and command support. Fire attack teams as well as roof teams tenaciously fought the fire and were able to limit the spread to additional parts of the home. A total of 115 LAFD personnel vigorously battled for 1 hour and 47 minutes before completely knocking down the flames. Sadly, three firefighters were injured during the incident, all were treated and released from the hospital, and all are expected to make a full recovery. No civilians were injured.

Fire damage has been estimated at \$950,000 (\$750,000 structure & \$200,000 contents). The cause of this early morning blaze was categorized as "undetermined".



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9/17/2010	8:37 AM	614 S St Andrews Pl	10	Major Emergency Structure Fire	29	23	155	6		0	0	\$1,200,000	1 hour, 2 min.
	INC. #									F/F FATALITY	CIV/INJURY		INCIDENT DURATION
	0249	Wilshire Center								0	0		9 hours, 39 min.

DOZENS DISPLACED IN KOREATOWN APARTMENT BLAZE

On Friday, September 17, 2010 at 8:37 AM, 23 Companies of Los Angeles Firefighters, 6 LAFD Rescue Ambulances, 4 Arson Units, 1 Urban Search and Rescue Unit, 1 Rehab Unit, 1 Hazardous Materials Team, 2 EMS Battalion Captains, 5 Battalion Chief Officer Command Teams and 1 Division Chief Officer Command Team, a total of 152 Los Angeles Fire Department personnel under the direction of Assistant Chief David Yamahata, responded to a Major Emergency Structure Fire at 614 South St Andrews Place in the Koreatown area of Los Angeles.

Los Angeles Firefighters arrived swiftly to find heavy fire in the attic of a six-story 58 unit center-hallway apartment building. Dozens of residents, protected in the fire's incipient stage by the building's compliance with the City of Los Angeles Fire Code, including the Ponet Square and Dorothy Mae Ordinances, were able to exit safely as firefighters extended handlines through windows and up several flights of stairs to keep flames at bay. One resident complained briefly of difficulty breathing, but declined treatment or transportation following his medical assessment by Los Angeles Fire Department paramedics.

Firefighters rescued or oversaw the safe 'shelter in place' protection of many dogs and cats in what residents describe as a pet-friendly apartment building. The flames were confined to the common attic and roof of the building of fire origin, and extinguished in just 62 minutes.

No other injuries were reported.

Despite LAFD holding direct fire damage above living areas in the 83 year-old building, the entire structure was deemed untenable pending repair of fire damage and restoration of utilities.

As many as thirty residents of the Versailles Apartments were referred to the American Red Cross for temporary assistance, which included emergency shelter with adjacent pet accommodations provided by the City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services.

Loss from the blaze has been estimated at \$1.2 million (\$900,000 structure & \$300,000 contents), a figure greatly lessened during the firefight by swift property protection and diligent salvage efforts by teams of Los Angeles Firefighters, who spent nearly ten hours at the scene.

Acting with knowledge that a small non-injury blaze - extinguished by fire sprinklers, had been intentionally set 28 hours earlier in an adjacent and co-owned building at 608 South St Andrews Place, a cadre of investigators from the Los Angeles Fire Department's Arson/Counter-Terrorism Section were joined by an Investigator from the U.S. Department of Justice (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives) in a comprehensive investigation that included use of an accelerant detecting canine.

Following the team's thorough on-site analysis, the cause of Friday morning's attic fire was confidently declared accidental, and "most probably electrical" according to investigators.

The investigation of possible gunfire heard in the neighborhood earlier that morning was a matter handled separately by Los Angeles Police Department officials.



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9/19/2010	7:59 AM	843 E 91st St	9	Structure Fire	65	4	32	3		0	1	Still Being Tabulated	0 hours, 14 min.
	INC. #									F/F FATALITY	CIV/INJURY		INCIDENT DURATION
	0335	Watts								0	0	In Progress	

WATTS FIRE CLAIMS ONE LIFE

On Sunday, September 19th, 2010 at 7:59 AM, 4 Companies of Los Angeles Firefighters, 3 LAFD Rescue Ambulances, 3 Arson Units, 1 EMS Battalion Captain, 1 Battalion Chief Officer Command Team, under the direction of Battalion Chief Kevin Pearson responded to a Structure Fire at 843 East 91st Street in Watts.

Firefighters arrived within four minutes to a one-story single-family-dwelling that had heavy fire showing. Jumping into action, they extended hand-lines inside the wood-framed stucco structure to do battle at the seat of the fire, while their colleagues swiftly took to the roof. Using chainsaws on this "hip" styled roof, the Truck Company had fire blowing out of the ventilation holes they cut. This released heat, smoke and gasses, which assisted another team of Firefighters to perform a detailed interior search of the 1,626 square-foot residence.

During this search-and-rescue procedure an elderly male was found in the front room, pulseless and non-breathing. Firefighter/Paramedics earnestly provided CPR and Advanced Life Support at the scene and during transportation to a local hospital, where sadly he was later declared deceased.

Twenty-nine Firefighters confined the blaze to just two rooms, and declared a Knockdown in 14 minutes, before flames were able to damage any nearby structures. In examining the fire's aftermath, there was no immediate evidence of a functional smoke alarm within the 62-year old residence, nor was it equipped with residential fire sprinklers. There were no window bars or security doors to impair the 86 year-old male's escape. Monetary loss from the fire is estimated at \$55,000 (\$40,000 structure & \$15,000 contents). The cause of this fire remains under active investigation.