

**LAFD**

# **SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT SUMMARY**

## **Emergency Public Information Center**

BFC # 11-001

Meeting Date Feb. 15, 2011

1/4/2011 TO 1/10/2011

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
1/5/2011	1:39 AM	127 N. Serrano Ave	4	Greater Alarm Structure Fire	52	11	77	7		0	0	\$380,000	0 hours, 31 min.
	INC. #									CIV/INJURY	INCIDENT DURATION		
	0051	0								1	8 hours, 27 min.		

### **FIRE TEARS TROUGH A TWO-STORY HOME IN HOLLYWOOD**

On Wednesday, January 5, 2011 at 1:39 AM, 11 Companies of Los Angeles Firefighters, 7 LAFD Rescue Ambulances, 1 Arson Unit, 1 EMS Battalion Captain, 2 Battalion Chief Officer Command Teams, 1 Division Chief Officer Command Team, under the direction of Battalion Chief Fred Mathis responded to a Greater Alarm Structure Fire at 127 N. Serrano Ave in Southeast Hollywood.

First fire company arrived quickly to discover heavy smoke showing from the rear of a two story, Victorian Style single family dwelling. Firefighters were immediately met with the challenge of 7-8 mph winds which pushed the fire through the structure causing a rapid spread of the flames. Handlines were established and forced entry was made to do battle within the occupancy. Two minutes into the fight, a partial roof collapse occurred, while roof teams were cutting holes to release the super heated gases from inside the home.

The Incident Commander ordered all companies out of the building and off the roof for a short defensive attack. All personnel re-launched an aggressive and well-coordinated offensive attack confining the fire to the structure of origin. Due to the strong efforts of 77 Los Angeles Firefighters the flames were brought under control in less than 31 minutes. Two of the homes occupants made it out just prior to the structure being engulfed by flames. One adult male suffered a minor first degree burn to the hand and was treated on scene. Fire loss is estimated at \$380,000 (\$300,000 structure & \$80,000 contents). Although it is still unclear as to how this fire broke out, the cause of this early morning will remain under an active investigation by the LAFD.

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1/6/2011	10:32 AM	1530 S Olive St	9	Haz-Mat Investigation	10	7	75	13		0	0	Still Being Tabulated	0 hours, 30 min.
	INC. #									F/F FATALITY	CIV/INJURY		INCIDENT DURATION
	0367									0	19		2 hours, 38 min.
		WASHINGTON BOULEVARD CORRIDOR											

### **LAFD HAZMAT INVESTIGATES ODOR THAT HOSPITALIZES 17**

On Thursday, January 6, 2011 at 10:32 AM, 7 Companies of Los Angeles Firefighters, 13 LAFD Rescue Ambulances, 1 Hazardous Materials Team, 2 EMS Battalion Captains, 3 Battalion Chief Officer Command Teams, 1 Division Chief Officer Command Team, under the direction of Assistant Chief Daryl Arbuthnot responded to a Hazardous Materials Investigation at 1530 South Olive Street in the South Park area of Downtown.

Firefighters arrived to a five-story modern building over parking, attached to a smaller two-story building, to investigate a smell of an unusual odor. Some individuals inside this medical clinic stated the odor smelled similar to natural gas. With six persons from the premises initially complaining of generalized sickness, the medical facility doing-business-as Eisner Pediatric Family Medical Clinic, wisely began its own evacuation of the 25 year-old building. First arriving firefighters immediately extracted and isolated the ill, while summoning an LAFD Hazardous Materials Team. LAFD HazMat experts donned protective gear as their colleagues commenced a detailed medical assessment on the growing number of patients. A total of 75 firefighters secured the scene, ensured the ventilation systems were shut down and that there was no immediate life threatening hazard in either of the two buildings. Firefighter / Paramedics rendered medical aid to a total of 18 patients, 17 of which were transported to various local hospitals in stable condition. Medical complaints of most patients were non-life-threatening generalized sickness, such as nausea and weakness. Great care was taken by Los Angeles Fire Department's extensively trained and equipped HazMat team, whom remained on-scene for over two and a half hours to safely determine that there was no serious threat or escalating hazard. Though the odor dissipated and its source was undetermined, a small amount of Mercaptan, which is added to natural gas to provide its disagreeable odor, was detected in the area.

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1/7/2011	10:43 PM	1183 S. Hoover St.	1	Structure Fire	13	8	53	3		0	1	Still Being Tabulated	0 hours, 31 min.
	INC. #	Korea town								F/F FATALITY	CIV/INJURY		
	1267									0	22		In Progress

**FOUR-PLEX CATCHES FIRE CLAIMING ONE LIFE**

On Friday, January 7, 2011 at 10:43 PM, 8 Companies of Los Angeles Firefighters, 3 LAFD Rescue Ambulances, 1 EMS Battalion Captain, 2 Battalion Chief Officer Command Teams, 1 Division Chief Officer Command Team, under the direction of Battalion Chief Richard Rideout responded to a Structure Fire at 1183 S. Hoover St. in Korea town.

Firefighters arrived quickly to discover heavy smoke showing from one of the lower units, of a two story four-plex. Firefighters skillfully forced entry through the well secured structure, while extending hoselines into the home's entry way to do battle within.

Fire crews were immediately notified that occupants were still somewhere in the unit and may be trapped. As they aggressively fought the flames, a simultaneous search for victims went underway. Fire teams soon discovered one adult female and one adult male without vital signs of life. Firefighters immediately initiated basic and advanced life support measures while rushing them both to an area hospital in grave condition.

Other personnel on scene continued a systematic search of the smoke charged home, locating an additional victim who was treated and transported in stable condition for smoke inhalation. 53 firefighters mounted a bold and decisive attack on the fire, confining it to the one unit, and extinguishing the flames in 31 minutes. Unfortunately, and despite the prompt work of Los Angeles Firefighter/Paramedics and hospital staff, an adult female was declared deceased shortly after arriving at the hospital. Seeking to offer additional comfort to grieving friends and neighbors, the LAFD mobilized to provide compassionate assistance to those closest to the victim.

Ten individuals were displaced as a result of this incident, and the American Red Cross was called in to assist those residents who stand in need. The monetary loss from a fire can not truly be weighed in the wake of the loss of life, however the dollar loss of this incident is still being tabulated. There were no other injuries reported. A positive identification of the deceased, as well as the cause, manner and time of her death will be determined by Coroner's officials. The cause of the fire remains under an active investigation.

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1/9/2011	1:14 PM	3850 W Martin Luther King Jr Bl	10	Major Emergency Structure Fire	94	19	133	6		1	0	Still Being Tabulated	1 hour, 36 min.							
	INC. #	Baldwin Hills/Crenshaw								F/F FATALITY	CIV/INJURY		INCIDENT DURATION							
	0592									0	22		4 hours, 22 min.							

**FIRE DESTROYS SECOND STORY OF VACANT BUILDING**

On Sunday, January 9, 2011 at 1:14 PM, 19 Companies of Los Angeles Firefighters, 6 LAFD Rescue Ambulances, 2 Arson Units, 1 Rehab Unit, 1 Hazardous Materials Team, 2 EMS Battalion Captains, 2 Battalion Chief Officer Command Teams, 6 Division Chief Officer Command Teams, under the direction of Assistant Chief Ralph Terrazas responded to a Major Emergency Structure Fire at 3850 West Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in the Baldwin Hills/Crenshaw area of Los Angeles.

Firefighters arrived quickly to discover heavy smoke and fire showing from a 75x100 commercial building. Fire crews mounted a swift and offensive attack while making strong headway to locate the origin of the flames. Interior attack teams and support teams established a staging area, to optimize a strategic assault that would confine the fire to a rear section of the second floor.

Firefighters using handlines, along with, strong teamwork and precise vertical ventilation, finally found the area where the flames were concentrated. The Incident Commander called for additional companies, as well as issuing an emergency alert, for all operations to shift to a defensive mode of attack.

The fire soon extended through the roof causing air conditioning units and other equipment from the top to begin falling through the structure. A second emergency alert was made, that one Los Angeles Firefighter was reported to be down, possibly injured on the second floor of the building. Although the firefight was still ongoing, swift attention was given to assist the fallen member, who was quickly found and taken out of the structure.

Apparently a portion of the falling roof and some of the ceiling fell on the firefighter. He sustained non-life threatening injuries and was later transported to Cedars Sinai Medical Center in stable condition, with expectations of a full recovery.

It took 153 firefighters to confine the fire entirely within the occupancy of origin, achieving a knockdown in 1 hour and 36 minutes. After a complete search, the building was declared vacant and no civilians were injured during the fight.

Although efforts were made to minimizing damage to the vacant structure, the entire second floor was heavily burned. It is still unclear as to how this fire broke out, and will remain as an active investigation by LAFD Officials