

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

BFC #12-051

Meeting Date: March 20, 2012

2/27/2012 TO 3/4/2012

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
3/1/2012	7:24 PM	630 W 76th St	8	Structure Fire	57	4	33	3		0	0	Still Being Tabulated	0 hours, 16 min.
	INC. #	F/F FATALITY								CIV/INJURY	INCIDENT DURATION		
	1097	0								3	4 hours, 36 min.		

SOUTH LOS ANGELES - A woman was in critical condition Thursday night, after being rescued from her home by Los Angeles Firefighters, in a blaze that also caused injury to two Los Angeles Police Officers. The fire was reported at 7:24 PM on Thursday, March 1, 2012, bringing 33 members of the Los Angeles Fire Department to do battle with intense flames seen within the front rooms of a one-story home at 630 West 76th Street in South Los Angeles. Firefighters arrived quickly to reports of a family trapped by the fire, to discover a teenage male who had safely escaped, and two Los Angeles Police Officers with painful though minor burn injuries from attempts to rescue the boy and his yet unfound mother. According to the teen, his mother had awakened him to the fire, allowing him to escape uninjured through a window, before she - for reasons unknown, reportedly turned toward the seat of the mounting flames. As firefighters made a relentless attack on the fire, their colleagues began a systematic search of the nearly 1,000 square foot home, soon discovering the missing 42 year-old woman unconscious in a bathtub. LAFD crews swiftly quenched the flames as the critically injured woman, with burns to more than 50% of her body, was carried from the home. Firefighter/Paramedics continued their life-saving care while transporting the woman to California Hospital Medical Center. The two injured Los Angeles Police Officers sustained first- and second-degree burns to their arms, and were taken by LAFD Ambulance in fair condition to the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center. No other injuries were reported. The fire was fully extinguished in just 16 minutes. The presence and functional status of household smoke alarms could not be immediately determined. Though the residence was equipped with window bars and security doors, it was not evident what role - if any - they may have played in hampering the woman's egress.

The home was not equipped with residential fire sprinklers. Monetary loss from the fire, which severely damaged the home, is still being tabulated. The American Red Cross was summoned to assist the family in recovering from the fire. The cause of the blaze remains under active investigation.

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3/2/2012	5:51 AM	1026 E Vernon Av	9	Civilian Fatality Structure Fire	14	8	67	5		0	2	Still Being Tabulated	0 hours, 32 min.
	INC. #	F/F FATALITY								CIV/INJURY	INCIDENT DURATION		
	0186	0								0	59 hours, 25 min.		

SOUTH LOS ANGELES INFERNO TAKES TWO LIVES

SOUTH LOS ANGELES - One woman died and firefighters later recovered the remains of another person, from the aftermath of an arson blaze that took place Friday morning at 1029 East Vernon Avenue in South Los Angeles.

The fire was reported at 5:51 AM on Friday, March 2, 2012, bringing the swift response of 67 Los Angeles Firefighters, who discovered well-entrenched flames throughout an abandoned and apparently secured 50' x 50' one-story residential-business conversion.

Despite fire-induced physical compromise of the clearly vandalized wood-frame and stucco structure that included a basement, the report of one or more persons trapped inside led LAFD crews to relentlessly search the flame-filled premises, with firefighters quickly discovering, rescuing and providing care to a critically injured woman - who later died at an area hospital.

The fire was extinguished in just 32 minutes.

Despite credible reports that a second person seen earlier with the woman had fled prior to the Fire Department's arrival, the LAFD immediately deployed a specially trained cadaver search dog and handler to scour remnants of the building, which was destroyed by the fast-moving fire.

Returning to the debris-filled scene in the two days that followed, neighborhood firefighters were able to uncover evidence of human remains on Sunday morning. They then devoted themselves to working alongside Coroner's officials and Investigators in seeing that the victim was removed and handled with the utmost of dignity and respect.

No other injuries were reported.

A positive identification of the deceased - to include their age and gender, as well as the precise cause, time and manner of their deaths will be determined by the County of Los Angeles Department of Coroner.

LAFD Investigators, who enlisted the aid of an accelerant detecting canine, determined the fire to be a deliberate act. Monetary loss from the fire has yet to be tabulated.

Those with information regarding this double-fatality blaze are encouraged to contact the LAFD Arson/Counter-Terrorism Section directly at (213) 893-9800.



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3/3/2012	4:56 AM	15440 W Sherman Wy	6	Greater Alarm Fire	90	12	82	7		0	0	\$40,000	0 hours, 22 min.
	INC. #	F/F FATALITY								CIV./INJURY	INCIDENT DURATION		
	0193	0								1	3 hours, 27 min.		

FIREFIGHTERS RESCUE FEMALE TRAPPED IN BURNING VAN NUYS APARTMENT

12 Companies of Los Angeles Firefighters, 7 LAFD Rescue Ambulances, 2 EMS Battalion Captains, 2 Battalion Chief Officer Command Teams, 1 Division Chief Officer Command Team, under the direction of Battalion Chief Hayden responded to a Greater Alarm Fire.

VAN NUYS - Just before 5 AM on Saturday March, 3rd, 2012, Los Angeles Firefighters rescued a 19 year-old female trapped in a bathroom, inside her burning apartment.

Firefighters rushed with lights and sirens to 15440 West Sherman Way, where they found a large three-story apartment building with smoke beginning to pour out from one unit on the second floor.

Meanwhile a young college student, who described herself as a, "deep sleeper", curtly awoke to the sound of smoke alarms echoing, alerting her of a fire. When she instinctively opened her bedroom door to the living room, she said it was, "ablaze". Using her cell phone, she immediately dialed 9-1-1. The call was received at LAFD's new Metro Fire Communications, where a scared woman was heard stating, "smoke is flooding my bedroom and I can't get out!" After determining her address, where she was inside the residence, and that she was unable to get to a window, the 9-1-1 Firefighter/Dispatcher instructed her to close the door, and get away from the fire. Over the next few minutes, life saving advice was provided.

Unable to escape, it was determined that a bathroom connected to her bedroom was the safest place to find shelter. As black smoke rapidly crept in, she was instructed to place wet towels around the door and in the cracks, to diminish it's deadly threat. Shortly thereafter, through sporadic coughing, and smoke stung eyes, she confided in the dispatcher, "Oh my God, I'm terrified". The dispatcher reassured her that firefighters were outside and running to her apartment, then stated, "I'm going to stay on the phone with you until they find you." She was then instructed to place a wet towel over her nose and face to filter smoke and lay flat on the ground to find clean air.

Concurrently, firefighters rushing to her aid were notified exactly where the trapped victim was located, expediting her rescue. A "drop bag" operation was swiftly executed to bring hose-lines to the second story. Firefighters then broke through the front door, battled the intense flames and performed an immediate search of the 1,000 square-foot apartment, and rescued the woman in a matter of minutes. She stated, "They were wearing masks and had flashlights. It was like a movie."

She was safely rushed outside and compassionately treated by Firefighter/Paramedics, then transported to Valley Presbyterian Hospital as a precaution. Later that day she was without injury or medical complaint and stated, "I'm so happy to be alive".

Under the command of Battalion Chief Hayden, 75 firefighters fully extinguished the blaze in just 22 minutes. The bulk of the fire was in the living room and kitchen.

The cause of this early morning blaze, is undetermined, possibly electrical in nature. The dollar loss is estimated at \$40,000 (\$20,000 structure and \$15,000 contents).

Due to the amount smoke and fire, the woman would not have survived if it were not for three important things:

- 1) Functional smoke alarms providing early fire detection, and time to call 9-1-1.
- 2) Listening to the 9-1-1 Firefighter/Dispatcher's lifesaving instructions.
- 3) The outstanding work of trained Los Angeles firefighters.

The young woman's first name is, Blessing.