

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT SUMMARY

Emergency Public Information Center

BFC #13-027

Meeting Date: March 5, 2013

2/11/2013 TO 2/17/2013

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
2/13/2013	10:03 AM	5260 Bellingham Av	2	Major Emergency Structure	60	26	171	7		0	0	\$250,000	1 hour, 23 min.
	INC.#			Fire						F/F FATALITY	CIV/INJURY		INCIDENT DURATION
	0352	Valley Village								0	1		In Progress

PAIR RESCUED, DOZENS DISPLACED BY VALLEY VILLAGE APARTMENT FIRE

VALLEY VILLAGE - It took more than 170 Los Angeles Firefighters nearly 90 minutes to tame a Wednesday morning blaze in the San Fernando Valley that directly damaged four apartment units, caused collateral damage to five others, displaced dozens of persons and sent one resident to the hospital. The Los Angeles Fire Department was summoned at 10:03 AM on February 13, 2013, to 5260 Bellingham Avenue in Valley Village, where they discovered smoke from the third floor of a four story apartment building, comprised of three occupied floors over ground level parking. A maintenance worker in a third floor apartment reportedly heard a smoke alarm in an adjacent room, where he found active fire. Given advanced warning by the properly functioning device, he was able to safely exit and alert others. The fire quickly gained a foothold, spreading to the apartment above and threatening all eight adjoining units on the south side of the of the 41,493 square-foot non-fire sprinklered building. Firefighters used ground ladders to safely rescue two imperiled residents from a smoke-charged third level balcony, as their colleagues extended multiple hoselines through serpentine interior hallways filled with heat and smoke to battle deeply entrenched flame. The well coordinated effort of 171 firefighters under the command of Deputy Fire Chief Mario Rueda, fully extinguished the flames in just 83 minutes. With significant structural compromise to one portion of the wood-frame and stucco structure, including collapse of an apartment balcony, the Department of Building and Safety declared the entire building temporarily untenable. To assist as many as 75 displaced residents, the American Red Cross opened a temporary shelter at the North Hollywood Senior Center. During the course of the fire, seven residents were examined for smoke exposure, though only one woman desired transport to an area hospital for further evaluation.

No other injuries were reported. Preliminary loss from the fire is estimated at \$250,000 (\$175,000 structure & \$75,

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
2/13/2013	6:15 AM	1901 E Pennsylvania Av	14	Structure Fire	2	6	39	3		0		. ,	0 hours, 17 min.
	INC.#									F/F FATALITY	CIV/INJURY		INCIDENT DURATION
	0158	Boyle Heights								0	1		2 hours, 13 min.

SMOKE ALARMS ABSENT IN BOYLE HEIGHTS FIRE THAT DISPLACES 17

BOYLE HEIGHTS - Seventeen residents of an eastside duplex were displaced by a raging fire Wednesday morning, that sent one man to the hospital.

The Los Angeles Fire Department was summoned at 6:15 AM on February 13, 2013, to 1901 East Pennsylvania Avenue in Boyle Heights. Firefighters arrived quickly to find heavy fire within the kitchen and hallway of a first floor unit in a two-story residential duplex.

Thirty-nine firefighters under the command of Battalion Chief Phillip Fligiel skillfully confined the fire near the area of origin, extinguishing the flames in just 17 minutes. One male resident who suffered smoke exposure was taken to an area hospital for non-life threatening injuries.

Firefighters expressed clear amazement that there were no additional injuries or loss of life, as the building was not equipped with any smoke alarms as required by law.

Monetary loss from the fire - which rendered the building temporarily untenable, was limited to \$30,000 (\$25,000 structure & \$5,000 contents). Nine residents of the downstairs apartment, and eight living upstairs were offered interim housing assistance by the American Red Cross.

The cause of the pre-dawn fire is considered accidental, and attributed to the improper storage of combustible items near a water heater.