



Modesto Regional Fire Authority

"We Care"

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Office of the Fire Chief
Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Multiple Structure Fires Tax Firefighters

Modesto Regional Fire Authority battled multiple structure fires yesterday, stretching resources down to critical levels. Fighting the fires was made even more dangerous and challenging with afternoon temperatures exceeding 100 degrees.

At approximately 5:00pm the Ceres Fire Department was dispatched to the Shivas Motel on South 9th street for a report of smoke coming from multiple units. Modesto Regional Fire sent resources as part of an automatic aid agreement. The advanced fire conditions and high temperatures required multiple alarms to be dispatched. The fire was brought under control in 1 hour and crews remained on scene for several more ensuring the fire was extinguished.

At 10:53 pm Modesto Regional Fire crews responded to a fire at the AM/PM at 903 5th street in west Modesto. An individual poured gasoline in front of the occupied store and lit it one fire. The suspect then fled the scene and patrons of the store had to pass through flames to evacuate. The fire was quickly extinguished and crews began the investigation. The suspect was found and arrested at his residence; he suffered minor burns to his extremities. Fortunately no other injuries were reported.

At 11:06 pm Modesto Regional Fire responded to a report of a commercial structure fire at 241 7th street in West Modesto. Crews arrived to find heavy smoke from a single story commercial building. Bystanders reported that someone was still inside the building. Crews operated with an aggressive fire attack and searched the building for occupants. The fire was brought under control quickly and no one was found inside. No other injuries were reported and damage is estimated at \$50,000.

At 11:48 pm Modesto Regional Fire responded to a report of a vegetation fire in South Modesto. Crews arrived at 602 Broadway Ave and found a single story Church with heavy black smoke coming from the entryway. Additional crews were requested for a confirmed commercial structure fire and command was established. Crews operated in aggressive fire attack and extinguished the fire in approximately 30 minutes. No injuries were reported and the cause of the fire is still under investigation. Damage is estimated at \$100,000.

Throughout the afternoon and evening MRFA resources were taxed with multiple incidents and coverage in the city was limited due to the draw down of resources. The heat played a key role in firefighter fatigue and number of resources needed.

Modesto Regional Fire Authority would like to remind citizens to be aware of the heat and the effects it has on children and pets. Never leave a pet or child in a vehicle unattended.