



Modesto Regional Fire Authority

“We Care”

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Office of the Fire Chief
Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Early Morning Fire Damages Graceada Area Home

Modesto - This morning crews from the Modesto Regional Fire Authority responded to 217 Elmwood Ave. for a house on fire. The home is in the Graceada Park neighborhood. Initial reports stated that the back porch was on fire. The residents, a family of four, safely evacuated the burning house.

On scene firefighters encountered a Bungalow style single story house with the rear third of the house on fire. Dense black pressurized smoke was boiling out of the attic. Crews made their way into the house and on to the roof to combat the blaze. As the Truck Company ventilated, the back of the roof began to fail. At the same time, the Incident Commander was informed of fire in the basement. The decision was made to change to a defensive fire fight and pull everyone out of the house and off of the roof. The entire roof collapsed a few minutes later. After a 40 minutes fire fight the blaze was brought under control.

Due to the roof collapse and for the potential of further structural collapse, the decision was made to not allow anyone to enter the structure. Fire crews remained on scene well into the morning working to extinguish the remaining hot spots and to investigate the fire.

The initial fire loss is estimated at \$200,000.00 structural damage and \$50,000.00 in contents loss. The family affected has been displaced from their home. They are being assisted through their insurance company. The cause of the fire remains under investigation, but appears to have been accidental. No firefighters were injured combating the fire.





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