



Modesto Regional Fire Authority

“We Care”

3705 Oakdale Road
Modesto, CA 95357
Phone: 209-552-3600
Fax: 209-552-2512

Office of the Fire Chief
Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: November 15, 2013
Author: Division Chief Sean Slamon
Phone: 209-522-3723
Email: sslamon@modestorfa.org

Overnight Fire Incidents in Modesto

Modesto, CA – Responses to fires kept Modesto Firefighters busy overnight. At 12:43 a.m. a Working Structure Fire compliment was dispatched to 1501 College Avenue for a fire inside the house. First arriving firefighters found an established fire in the front room of the home. Police officers, on scene, indicated that the house was generally known to have been vacant. They also reported that at the time of the fire it was inhabited by a squatter. She left the scene shortly after the arrival of firefighters. Transients and illicit drug users were said to have been in and out of the building. The house is a single-story, older style bungalow in the College district.

The first alarm was laid out with assignments given to attack the fire, ventilate the roof and to conduct a search for any remaining occupants. The fire was contained within 7 minutes of the initial arriving company. The fire was primarily confined to the front room of the house. Heat and smoke damage was spread throughout the house.

Firefighters then turned their attention to overhauling the scene and assuring that the fire was completely out. A total of 18 firefighters, on 4 engines, 1 truck, a Battalion Chief's vehicle and a fire investigator truck responded to the fire. The fire loss is estimated at \$25,000.00. Fire cause remains under investigation. No firefighters were injured combating the blaze.

At 4:53 a.m. a Potential Structure response was dispatched to the **Safeway Supermarket** at 2001 McHenry Avenue for a fire in the delicatessen. Store personnel reported that they had a fire in a fryer unit. Again, Engine 5 arrived first, established McHenry IC and investigated interior conditions. All store personnel were safely out of the store.

Inside, Engine 5 found a small fire underneath a deep fat fryer and located in the heating element. The cause of the fire was accidental. . Firefighters were able to remove the fryer to the exterior before using a fire extinguisher to put the fire out. Their actions will result in significant savings in clean up costs and soiled food disposal to the store.

Regards,

Hugo P. Patino, Jr.

Battalion Chief

Modesto Regional Fire Authority

Office: 209-572-9653

Cell: 209-495-6205

