



# SAN RAMON VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

1500 Bollinger Canyon Road ♦ San Ramon, California 94583

## Administration

Phone: 925.838.6600

Fax: 925.838.6629

www.firedepartment.org

## Fire Prevention

Inspections: 925.838.6680

Phone: 925.838.6600

Fax: 925.838.6696

## **INCIDENT FACT SHEET**

**01/22/10**

**Jack Barton, Battalion Chief – A Shift**

**Incident # 10-0436**

**Location:** 168 Joaquin Dr., Danville

**Date:** 01/22/10

**Type of Incident:** Structure Fire

**Report:** neighbor reports "smoke from the eaves" via 9-1-1

**Dispatch:**

**First Alarm** – E31, T31, E34, T34, E38, PM31, B31

**Second Alarm** – E32, E35, E33, BS31

**Support Staff** – 3100, 3101, 3102, 3113, 3172 (Safety), 3193 (Rehab), 3131 (I.O.

Kim French)

**Investigator** – 3123

**Times:**

**Received:** - 08:34:03

**Dispatched** – 08:34:41

**Arrival** – 08:39:58

**Under Control** –

**Property Description:**

Duplex, 168 Joaquin Dr. (single-story), 14 Serene Ct. (two-story), ordinary construction, comp roof.

**Initial Report of Conditions:**

E31 arrives and reports large amount of smoke coming from the roof area.

Declares "working fire" and offensive mode. E31 assumes IC.

**Tactical Objective:**

- Locate fire
- Clear search
- Offensive fire attack
- Salvage contents

**Event Chronology:**

On January 22, 2010 at 08:34:03 hrs. San Ramon Valley Fire Protection Dispatch (Dispatch) receives a 9-1-1 call from a neighbor near Joaquin Dr. in Danville reporting smoke coming from the eaves of a house near by.

At 08:34:41 Dispatch initiates a First Alarm Structure Fire response, dispatching E31, E34, E38, T31, T34, PM31, and B31. While dispatching the First Alarm, Dispatch

receives a call from the resident of 14 Serene Ct., Danville who states that the attached residence (168 Joaquin Dr.) is on fire. The updated location is transmitted to responding units.

TAC 22 is assigned tactical channel and incident is named Joaquin IC.

E31 arrives and reports a large amount of smoke coming from the eaves and declares a "working fire", assumes Joaquin IC, and declares offensive mode. Proceeds to complete "walk-around size-up" to determine location of fire. Confirms that structure is a duplex.

T31 arrives and spots to use aerial ladder to access two-story roof

E34 arrives and establishes water supply to E31. Capt. 34 enters 14 Serene Ct. (two-story) to locate fire. Report residence is clear of smoke and fire, but notes heat through common wall on TIC.

E31 (IC) notes that fire appears to be in attic of 168 Joaquin Dr. (single-story).

B31 arrives and IC is transferred.

T31 is assigned to ventilate the single-story roof which they access via ground ladder.

T34 arrives and is assigned RIC. T34 controls utilities and sets up RIC in front of 168 Joaquin.

PM31 arrives and is assigned to set up Rehab and SCBA bottle change area.

E31 and E34 enter 168 Joaquin and pull ceiling to access attic space for fire attack. Initial open reveals no visible fire.

T31's initial cut produces no smoke or fire. The crew moves to another location and completes a heat hole that produces significant smoke and heat. Capt. T31 checks the roof line along the wall between the attached residences back toward the original cut and notes heat all the way back. T31 returns to the original location to start another hole. Capt. T31 looks back to first completed hole and communicates active fire out of that opening to IC. T31 completes vent cut at original location. Active fire comes from this hole too. Capt. T31 reports to IC that he has fire out of both vent holes.

IC transmits a 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm (E32, E33, and E35)

Interior crews (E31 and E34) note visible fire in the attic and initiate fire attack.

Capt. E31 quickly checks residence and reports it is "all clear".

IC relays the "all clear" to Dispatch and reports that the fire is confined to the attic of the single-story residence and confirms that crews are in the offensive mode.

T34 opens the garage door. Subsequently, fire is noted in the attic space above the HVAC and water heater units. E38 is assigned to pull a second line and attack the fire in that location.

Second alarm units arrive. E33 is assigned to salvage. E32 is assigned to the two-story residence to check for extension. E35 is assigned to work with T31 to complete overhaul operations on the roof.

The fire is knocked down and operations move into overhaul.

Significant effort is needed to access the void space between the two residences. Fire had breached the wall and the space was opened from both sides to complete extinguishment. Significant effort is also needed to remove blown-in, cellulose insulation from the attic space.

**Cause:** Under investigation. Origin determined to be in the space over the HVAC unit.

**Injuries:** One firefighter struck by falling sheetrock. Relieved from duty after the fire. Cleared for duty 2/3/10.

### **LESSONS LEARNED OR REINFORCED**

- **Initial Report on Conditions (IROC)** – A good, clear IROC identified a “working fire”. This allowed the responding units organize themselves to accomplish the necessary tasks with little to no radio traffic other than confirmation that the tasks were assigned and subsequently completed.
- **First-Due Engine and Truck spotting** – The location of the fire was unclear on arrival. E31 spotted in a position to access either of the residences and keep the street open for other responding units as well. T31 spotted to use their aerial ladder to access the roof if necessary. While the aerial was not needed, it is essential for the first-due truck to have this spot. Re-positioning apparatus after the initial spot is very difficult and time consuming.
- **Walk-Around Size-Up** – The most important piece of information we need (other than the possibility of victims needing rescue) is the location of the fire. The Walk-Around Size-Up gives us the best information we can get and must be performed. It takes priority over a face to face with the BC to transfer IC. The Walk-Around Size-Up was done right away on this fire and was essential in locating the fire.
- **Confirmation of mode** – The confirmation of the mode in which we are operating (Rescue, Offensive, or Defensive) assists in setting the priority of the tasks needed on the fire ground. All working fires need essentially the same things. (IC, Primary Search, Fire Attack, Water Supply, IRIC/RIC, Ventilation, Utility Control, Salvage, Overhaul, Secondary Search). The priority of those tasks, especially Primary Search, IRIC/RIC, and Water Supply, will change based on the mode. The offensive mode was confirmed a number of times on this fire. Not only did it clarify the task priority, it reminded the IC to consider the continuation of the strategy or mode. If operations are still offensive well into the fire and no progress is evident, a change of strategy or mode may be in order.
- **Communication from the roof** – T31 communicated conditions on the roof, intent to open roof prior to doing so, changes of location, and effectiveness of vent openings to IC. This allowed the information to be passed to interior crews. This was extremely important. INTERIOR CREWS NEED TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON ABOVE THEM.

- **Early call for salvage** – Interior crews made a call for salvage early on. This more than anything, contributed to the amount of stuff we saved from damage. And we saved a lot!
- **Attic Fire tactics** – When the fire is in the attic, we need to ensure that the following things happen:
  - Water gets in the attic right away – The steam generated can check the progress until other measures can be accomplished
  - Topside Ventilation – Turn the lateral movement of the fire into horizontal movement out of the vent opening
  - Hooks, Ladders, and Covers – These items need to get inside right away. The attack engineer or the second company inside should make sure this happens.
  - The nozzle and the nozzle person need to get in the attic – The most efficient way to kill the attic fire is to get up in the attic when you can and direct the nozzle where it needs to go. Otherwise we will end up chasing the fire around and using more water and causing more damage.
  - Get crews in to salvage early – see above
- **Organize multiple crews** – Eventually there were three crews working fire attack and salvage in the same area. IC needs to recognize the potential for confusion and place one officer in charge and ensure everyone knows who is working for whom. This was done after prompting from an observing chief officer.
- **Clear your work space** – We had number of people working in close proximity when a large amount a sheet rock came down and injured a firefighter. Make sure that everyone in the area knows what is happening and is out of the way if possible.
- **PPE use** – We had some personnel using power equipment without eye protection. The message to all is, **“We are going to follow our policies and wear our provided PPE to prevent preventable injuries.”** All personnel will be expected to take responsibility for this and will see increased emphasis on incident scenes. In addition, it bears a reminder that the area above an active fire is considered IDLH. SCBA must be in use when working over active fire. Once the fire is knocked down, masks may be removed if conditions allow, but SCBAs should be kept on to allow personnel to go back on air if conditions change.