

GREEN SHEET

SACRAMENTO FIRE DEPARTMENT Informational Summary Report of Serious SFD Injuries, Illnesses, Accidents and Near-Miss Incidents



Structure Fire

Burn Injuries

October 7th 2008

Stilt Court Fire

**Master # 125266
SFD Incident # 55285**

A Board of Review has not approved this Summary Report. It is intended as a safety and training tool, an aid to preventing future occurrences, and to inform interested parties. Because it is published on a short time frame, the information contained herein is subject to revision as further investigation is conducted and additional information is developed.

SUMMARY

On October 7, 2008, at approximately 0929 hours, the Sacramento Fire Department responded to a structure fire located at 17 Stilt Court. A first alarm structure response was dispatched and Engine 15 was first to arrive at 0935 hours reporting "heavy dark smoke coming from the second floor." Engine 15 initiated an offensive attack and an attack line was moved into position onto the second floor.

Engine 18 arrived, assumed Command, and sent one additional firefighter to assist Engine 15. As the other companies began to arrive, smoke conditions began to change drastically forcing the crew members out of the building, which separated the crew members of Engine 15. As the three Firefighters exited the Alpha side of the building, a "MAY-DAY" was called for the Captain from Engine 15.

The Captain from Engine 15 was able to exit the building and was located on the Charlie side of the building. The Captain and all three Firefighters were transported to University of California Davis Medical Center for treatment.

CONDITIONS

Weather conditions observed from the Regional Dispatch Center 10-7-08 0923 a.m.

Temperature: 63.9

Humidity: 75%

Wind Speed: 4 mph

Direction: North

Visibility: Clear

Structure: Two-story single family residence wood frame with a tile roof
2448 sq. ft.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

On October 7, 2008, Sacramento Regional Fire Emergency Communications Center (SRFECC) received multiple calls for a building fire located at 17 Stilt Court with smoke coming from the second floor.

At 0929 hours, SFRECC dispatched a residential structure assignment for Sacramento Fire Department (SFD) consisting of three (3) Engine Companies, two (2) Truck Companies, two (2) Battalion Chiefs and one (1) ALS Medic. SFD staffs four (4) person Companies. E15, E18, E30, TR2, TR5, BC3, BC4 and M30 were assigned to the initial dispatch reported as "structure fire with visible smoke."

Engine 15 arrived first on scene (6 minutes and 7 seconds) after initial dispatch and reported heavy dark smoke from the second floor. They took fire attack and requested the second due Engine to take command, water supply and pull a back up line. Engine 15 crew consisting of the Captain, Nozzle Firefighter and a Backup Firefighter, stretched a 1 3/4" hose line to the second floor.

Engine 18 arrived 35 seconds after Engine 15 with only three (3) crew members: the Acting Captain, Nozzle Firefighter and Engineer. Engine 18 Acting Captain established Stilt Command and directed the Nozzle Firefighter to pull a backup line.

Command was able to get a 360 of the building, opened up a sliding glass door on the Bravo side noticing two windows opened on the Bravo side on the second floor. Command went back to the Alpha side of the building and noticed the Engine 18 Nozzle Firefighter assisting in stretching the initial attack line from the front door. Command ordered Engine 18 Nozzle Firefighter to assist Engine 15 with stretching the hose line upstairs. Command then advised the third arriving Engine to staff the backup line. The water supply was established with Engine 18 on the hydrant feeding water to Engine 15.

Engine 15 Captain advised Command that they were not able to locate the fire on the second floor and that they needed Positive Pressure Ventilation (PPV). Command advised Engine 15 Captain that there were no Truck Companies on scene and a door was opened on the outside of the building. Engine 15 Captain opened three windows on the second floor, one window at the top of the stairs and two windows in the master bedroom.

Engine 30 and Medic 30 arrived on scene (3 minutes and 42 seconds) after Engine 15. Engine 30 Nozzle and Backup Firefighter began masking up on the front lawn preparing to staff the back up line. Engine 30 Engineer threw a 24' extension ladder to the Bravo / Alpha corner of the building and a Medic 30 Firefighter threw a 14' roof ladder to the Alpha side of the building. The smoke conditions interior began to deteriorate. The Medic 30 Firefighter went to the Delta side of the building and noticed fire coming out of a window on the Delta side. The Medic 30 Firefighter used a 2-by 4-inch to clear out the window and remove the sash. The Medic 30 Firefighter then moved to the Charlie side of the

building and noticed the windows were cracked. The Medic 30 Firefighter then broke out the sliding glass door and removed the screen on the Charlie side. After the Medic 30 Firefighter evaluated the Bravo side of the building, the Medic 30 Firefighter went back to the Alpha side and advised the Engine 30 Captain that the fire was on the first floor in the Charlie / Delta corner. The Engine 30 Engineer had opened up the side door on the Delta side and the Garage door on the Alpha side also opening the interior door to the kitchen and discovered heavy fire conditions and closed the door. The Engine 30 Engineer immediately advised the Engine 30 Captain that the first floor was fully involved.

Conditions quickly deteriorated followed by the hose line going flat. It became immediately apparent, by all crew members, that they needed to exit the building. Engine 18 Nozzle Firefighter and Engine 15 Backup Firefighter escaped down the stairway exiting through the Alpha side via the front door. Engine 15 Nozzle Firefighter exited a window located at the top of the stairs and onto the roof of the garage. Engine 15 Captain retreated to the master bedroom searching for windows he had opened earlier. Unable to locate the windows, the Engine 15 Captain decided to follow the hose line down the staircase.

As Firefighters began to exit the building, Stilt Command discovered that the Engine 15 Captain was unaccounted for and initiated a "MAY-DAY." Shortly after the "MAY-DAY" the Engine 15 Captain was located in the back yard on the Charlie side of the building. By his own account, the Engine 15 Captain came down the stairs, dove over the railing and ran out a sliding glass door on the Bravo side.

Truck 2 with five (5) firefighters and Truck 5 arrived simultaneously (approximately 4 minutes and 23 seconds) after Engine 15. Truck 2 began exterior operations with setting up the aerial and ground ladders on the Alpha side at which time, Truck 5 prepared to enter the building for a search of the interior.

BC/4 arrived on scene (9 minutes and 18 seconds) after Engine 15 arrived requesting a transfer of Command and was advised of conditions and the initial "MAY-DAY." BC4 took over Command and acknowledged the priority traffic; Command ordered all personnel out of the building and to get an account of all members from Engine 15. Command began to move Medic units into position and conduct a PAR. An "Emergency-Traffic" was broadcasted by the Truck 2 Captain, advising Command that a Medic unit was also needed at the Charlie side of the building.

BC/3 moved to the Charlie side of the building and established the Safety position. Safety assisted Command with a PAR of crews operating on scene.

All members from Engine 15 and Engine 18 were located and moved into Medical units. Medic 30 transported the Captain from Engine 15 with the most severe burns to University of California Davis (UCD). The three Firefighters were moved into Medic 17 and transported to UCD.

INJURIES/DAMAGES

Engine 15 Captain suffered serious 2nd degree burns on hands, neck, and left ear.

Engine 15 Nozzle and Engine 15 Backup suffered moderate 2nd degree burns to the ears and hands.

Engine 18 Nozzle suffered 2nd degree burns to the ears, neck, hands, and leg.

SAFETY ISSUES FOR REVIEW

Need for secondary hose lines for protection of stairwell and/or floors in multiple story buildings.

Appropriate staffing levels on incoming companies to perform fire operations. Prioritize needs for fire scene.

Ventilation techniques performed in coordination with fire attack.

Proper use of radios to advise crews of specific actions or conditions, i.e. location of fire, ventilation activities performed.

Proper PPE worn on fire scene. This includes all members operating on the fire scene.

Ensure that all members are compliant of Firefighter Accountability Tracking System (FATS).