



San Rafael

Mayor
Albert J. Boro



Council Members
Greg Brockbank
Damon Connolly
Barbara Heller
Marc Levine
Fire Chief
Christopher Gray

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Chief Christopher Gray
Phone: (415) 485-3084
Email: chris.gray@cityofsanrafael.org

SAN RAFAEL FIRE DEPARTMENT RESCUES MAN FROM CONDOMINIUM FIRE – updated 6/16/10

San Rafael, CA -- June 11, 2010 at 1:28 a.m. this morning, four Companies of San Rafael Firefighters, one Larkspur Company, one San Rafael Medic Unit, one Fire Investigator, and two San Rafael Chief Officers (total of 19 Firefighters) under the direction of Battalion Chief Rowan, responded to a structure fire at 3665 Kerner Blvd, Unit D.

Engine 54 arrived quickly to discover a multi-story condominium building in the darkness with smoke and fire from a first floor unit. A report of an occupant trapped inside of the structure initiated immediate search and rescue operations. San Rafael Police were on-scene and had attempted to rescue the occupant, but were pushed back by the flames and smoke from the fire. Engine Company 54 Firefighters with assistance by Engine 52, coordinated an aggressive attack and simultaneous rescue by extending hose lines to position themselves between the rapidly growing fire and the victim. Entry was made through the front door where firefighters encountered fire, smoke and high heat and commenced a swift and well coordinated attack and rescue where they found an adult male victim who was located in a rear bedroom where he was immediately removed to safety by firefighters. The occupant was alerted to the fire by a smoke detector and found he was trapped inside with intense fire blocking his exit in the front part of his condominium. He retreated to the rear bedroom, closed the door, calling 9-1-1 and waited for the arrival of firefighters. Medic Unit 51 Firefighter/Paramedics assisted with removal of the victim and immediately initiated life saving care. The patient was found conscious, but had difficulty breathing due to smoke and fire conditions in the unit. Treatment and transport were handled by San Rafael Paramedics from Medic 51 to Kaiser Terra Linda. The patient was found to be suffering from smoke inhalation and burns in the area of his face and hand. He is responding to treatment and remains in ICU.

As the fire was being knocked down, a secondary search was also conducted to confirm no other occupants were in the condominium. Truck 57 members performed horizontal ventilation of the structure and worked with Engine 51 company personnel to insure there was no extension of the fire to other units. No additional injuries occurred to residents or firefighters. The unit involved suffered fire and smoke damage.

-more-

Light smoke was found in the condo unit directly above where the fire occurred and firefighters ventilated the smoke and the unit was reoccupied by the resident. Larkspur Fire Investigator Walton conducted a preliminary investigation at the scene and is continuing the investigation this morning. No cause has been determined at this time. Loss from this fire has been estimated at \$75,000 (\$50,000 structure & \$25,000 contents).

“Remember – smoke detectors are a sound you can live with,” said San Rafael fire chief Christopher Gray. “From the activation of a working smoke detector, to the great handling of the 9-1-1 call to Comm Center and dispatcher to the resident following instructions and taking appropriate actions; to the SRPD response and attempts to save the resident, to our emergency response and quick action from firefighters, a life was saved. Please check your smoke detectors. If you have any questions about placement of a smoke detector or types of smoke detectors to get, please don’t hesitate to contact the San Rafael Fire Department. We’re here to help.”



San Rafael Fire Department rescues man from condo fire on June 11, 2010. Photo courtesy of Larry Luckham.

Fire Prevention Tips

- Look at the inside and outside of your home. Look for possible fire hazards, like stacked papers or debris piles. Take time to keep areas clear and remove materials that you no longer need or recycle dry and dead debris.
- Make sure everyone in your home knows the evacuation plan if you need to leave your home. Practice the plan with your family. Have a back up plan if your first route is blocked by smoke or fire.
- Make sure you have at least one fire extinguisher in or near your kitchen – and know how to use it.

More tips can be found at www.srfd.org

Fire Department Offices: 1039 C Street, San Rafael, CA 94901
Administration (415) 485-3304 Fax: (415) 453-1627
“Our Mission is to Help”