

# **GREEN SHEET**

## **SACRAMENTO FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Informational Summary Report of Serious SFD Injuries, Illnesses, Accidents and Near-Miss Incidents Residential Structure Fire**



**Thermal injuries to 3 Firefighters**

**01/12/2015**

**22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue**

**F15005729**

**CA-SCR-22F15002555**

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 January 12, 2015 at 0624, Battalion 2 (BC2), Battalion 1 (BC1), Engine 10 (E10), Truck (T10), Medic 10 (M10), Engine 6 (E6), TR6 (T6), Engine (E56) and Engine 12 (E12) were dispatched for a reported structure fire in a residential home. Shortly after initiating fire attack there was a catastrophic floor collapse, causing E6 backup and nozzle to fall in to a small basement space. A MAYDAY was called and the firefighters were assisted out of the hole. Once removed, the 2 firefighters were transported to the hospital for treatment of various levels of burns. The captain of E6 was also transported and treated at the hospital for respiratory difficulty.

## CONDITIONS

Weather: Conditions reported from Weather Underground for zip code 95820 on 1/12/2015 at 0653 am (closest available time):

Temperature:	44.1°F
Dew point:	43.0°F
Humidity:	93%\
Pressure:	30.21
Visibility:	.2 mi
Wind:	calm
Wind speed:	calm
Precipitation:	N/A
Other events:	fog

The structure is a 2 story colonial style home originally constructed in 1932 in the Colonial Heights neighborhood of Sacramento. The home, as built, was 1860 square feet; consisting of 1000 square feet on the first floor and 860 square feet on the second. The data lists a basement but it is considered unfinished by building code. The basement area is 20ft by 15ft consisting of smooth finish concrete walls 7'6" high from ground to first floor joist. The home appears to have been remodeled, with the addition of a stucco exterior, dual pain vinyl windows and a rubberized metal roof. The walls and ceiling are lathe and plaster with the flooring in the collapse area consisting of 2 1/4" hardwood strips.

Engine Riding Positions used in this document:

Nozzle: Responsible for deploying and flaking the chosen hose line. Will be the firefighter operating the nozzle during fire attack or 2 out and typically first though the door.

Backup: Carries the irons (flathead axe and Halligan ), responsible for light forcible entry and ensuring the attack line is deployed correctly. Will assist with hose advancement during fire attack or 2 out operations.

## SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

At 0624 on January 12, 2015 a full residential structure assignment was dispatched to 5352 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue for a report of a house fire. E6 arrived on the alpha side of a 2 story residential home and reported, "smoke but no fire". E6 initiated fire attack with a 150' tankline at the front door on the alpha/bravo corner. Almost simultaneously E10 arrived, assuming command and 2 out, with the backup and nozzle pulling a tankline to the same doorway. E6 captain used his thermal imager (TIC) inside the doorway and noted fire along the interior of the bravo side. E6 nozzle and backup began advancing the hose toward the fire area with the E6 captain behind them. Approximately 6 to 10 feet inside the structure the floor structure collapsed, causing E6 nozzle and backup to fall into a basement area approximately 7 1/2 feet down. E6 captain fell to the floor with his upper torso hanging over the hole. At this time there was heavy fire in all areas of the basement where the 2 firefighters fell. E6 backup was able to self-extricate as was E6 captain.

Multiple MAYDAY calls were made as both E6 captain and backup began attempting to rescue E6 nozzle. BC1 and BC2 acknowledged the MAYDAY with BC1 calling for a second alarm and asked for additional tactical channels. BC 2 arrived on scene and assumed 22nd Ave command. E10 nozzle and backup advanced in, initially knocking down any fire near E6 nozzle then began assisting in the rescue effort. After multiple failed attempts to pull E6 nozzle out by hand, an attic ladder was brought in and slid into the hole. This ladder fell into the hole and became unusable, so an additional attic ladder was brought in and placed in the hole. E6 nozzle was able to step onto at least one rung of the ladder allowing E6 and E10 personnel to remove him from the hole. During the removal of E6 nozzle from the hole, the captain of E6 had his mask knocked off causing him to experience respiratory discomfort later in the incident.

Once removed from the hole E6 nozzle was carried to a waiting gurney and was transported code 3 to UC Davis Medical Center. Shortly after the initial transport of E6 nozzle, E6 backup began to feel pain in both his wrists and realized he was burned. A second medic was brought in and he was transported to the same facility for treatment. Captain of E6 began to experience minor to moderate respiratory difficulty and was subsequently transported to UC Davis Medical Center for treatment. IC then called for all operations to go defensive and all personnel exited the structure and a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) was conducted with all members being accounted for.

## INJURIES/DAMAGES

E6 nozzle: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns to hands and back of upper and lower legs. Firefighter is currently in hospital for treatment at the time of this report.

E6 backup: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> degree burns to both wrists. Firefighter was released approximately 24 hours after being admitted.

E6 captain: Respiratory discomfort caused by tracheal irritation and inhalation of toxic products of combustion. Captain was released approximately 24 hours after being admitted.

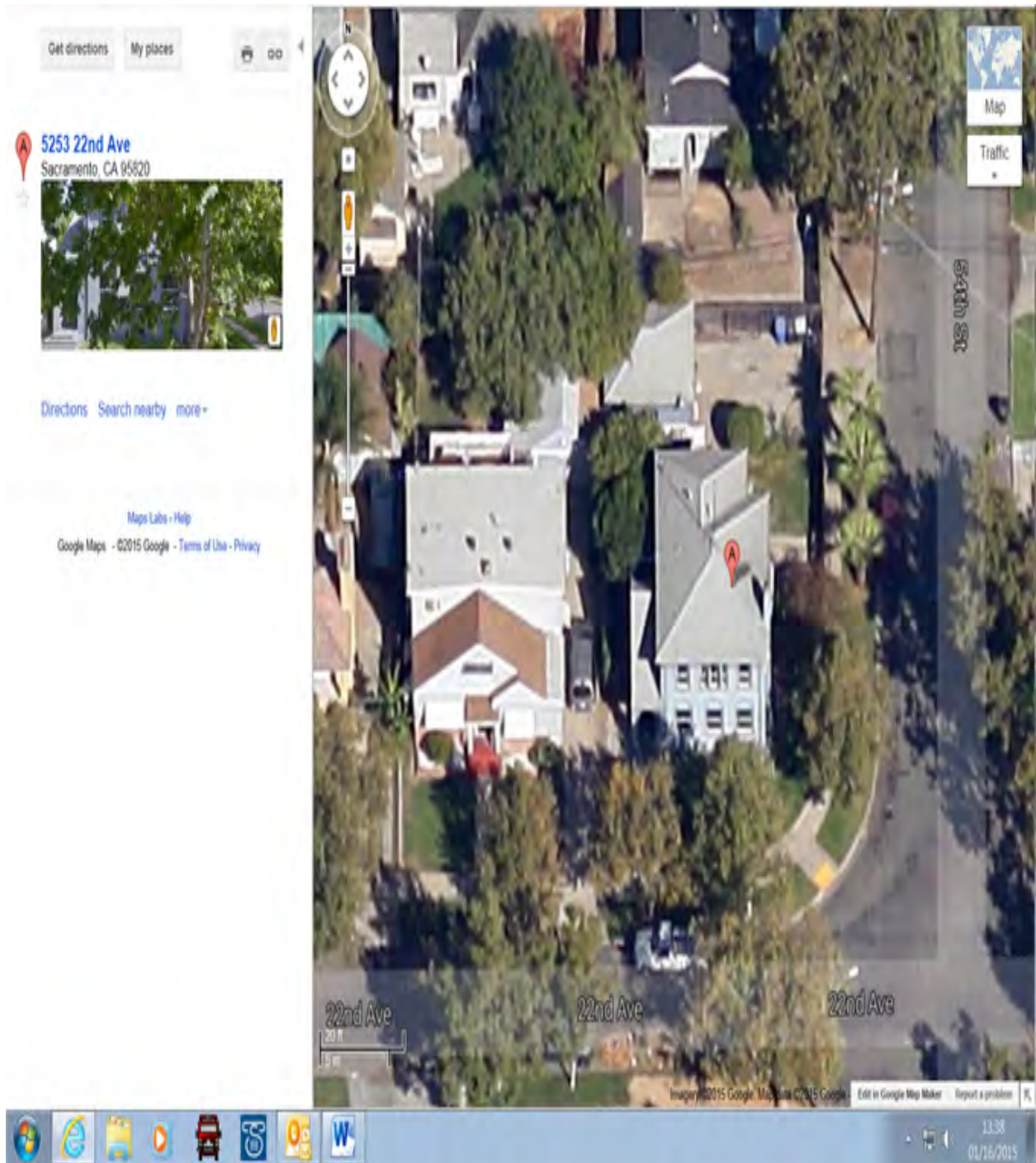
## SAFETY ISSUES FOR REVIEW

- All personnel need to be aware of fire ground radio traffic and immediately report Emergency/ MAYDAY traffic if you feel it has been missed.
- If hazards are observed that may impact operations or the safety of any crews they must be voiced over the radio to alert all crews. Examples include: rapidly changing fire conditions, structural collapse, unusual smoke conditions, fire location, etc
- Company officers need to ensure that any information updates from dispatch or the Battalion Chief are relayed to the crew and those updates are acknowledged.
- Consider incorporating the use of the portable radio emergency button into your MAYDAY training. This will add a level of redundancy for any MAYDAY call on the wrong tactical channel. Allowing that call, and the emergency alert with radio identifier, to be heard by dispatch. This information will be voiced to the IC within seconds and can be relayed to all crews on the fire ground by the IC.
- Ensure all PPE is worn including SCBA waist strap and wrist gauntlets of the structure coat. This creates a greater level of safety for unforeseen conditions that may arise.
- All personnel must maintain arrival assignment discipline. Unless an emergent condition exists or other orders are given after the initial assignment, the original assignment will be carried out. An example would be the 2 out line entering for fire attack ahead of the primary fire attack line.

- All personnel should ensure that portable radios are turned to the correct tactical channel and periodically confirm it is still on the correct channel throughout the incident. Radios must also have the scan function turned off when operating on a tactical channel to ensure all radio transmissions are received.
  
- Each person operating on the fire ground can contribute to the overall accountability of crews operating at the scene. If you have information regarding a firefighter that is unaccounted for, you must immediately notify command, even if that firefighter is not on your crew.

## **INCIDENTAL ISSUES FOR REVIEW**

- Discuss expectations and possible actions for combating lower frequency, higher risk, complex fires such as basement fires.
- Be aware of any specialty types of construction that is in your response area and alert surrounding crews routinely.





Alpha Side



Alpha/ Bravo Side





Charlie Side



Delta Side





Stairs to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Interior view, approx. 6 feet from front door

“A” side Edge  
of basement

