



ARCATA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

631 NINTH STREET, ARCATA, CA 95521-6204
(707) 825-2000 Fax: (707) 822-7951

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BURNING GARAGE ALMOST IGNITES HOME

MCKINLEYVILLE, CA- (February 1, 2015)- Arcata Fire District was dispatched to a reported structure fire at 6:12 PM in the 1000 block of Griffith Road. The dispatcher updated crews that there were multiple 911 calls incoming.

One engine, from McKinleyville Station, and a Chief Officer arrived in the area and attempted to locate the best access to the fire. The fire was approximately 130 feet off Griffith Road and there were two driveways to choose from. E8217 located the correct driveway and arrived at the scene, reporting a garage fire that was 50% involved. The fire had already vented through the roof and was spreading to a single family residence approximately 20 feet away.

Fire crews directed hose lines at the residence and prevented it from further damage. The second and third arriving engines worked to establish a water supply to the engine that was fighting the fire. Once the water supply was set up, crews quickly controlled the fire and the damage to the residence was minimal.

Battalion Chief Campbell reported, "I'm extremely thankful no one was injured at this incident. We were extremely short handed tonight with only ten firefighters at scene. Our crews had to fight fire from the exterior because we didn't have enough people to fill all of the tasks needing to be completed".

The fire is under investigation but the preliminary findings indicate it is most likely accidental. The building is a complete loss and the house sustained very minor damage. Investigators will return to the scene in the morning to complete their investigation.

Chief Campbell stated, "The roof burned thoroughly and the walls are unstable. We are not going to let any of our firefighters go into the building until we can take a better look at the stability during daylight hours. We will not hurt or kill someone over a building with this much damage".



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The tenant of the property discovered the fire when he saw smoke in the yard. He went into the garage and found moderate smoke conditions with fire in the attic. He realized it was too big to extinguish so he called 911 and got out of the building.

"The occupant did a good job staying out of the building once he realized it was too big for him to attempt extinguishment. We are working with him to determine the cause" reported Chief Campbell.

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