



City of Arts & Innovation

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RIVERSIDE POLICE AND FIRE RESCUE VICTIMS FROM BURNING HOME

RIVERSIDE, CA – On Saturday, October 22, 2016, at about 5:37 p.m., the Riverside Police and Fire Departments responded to the 11600 block of Hartford Court for a residential structure fire and reports of three elderly people believed to be trapped inside. Police Officers Richard Kerr and Kyle Wilder arrived to the location first and found the house fully engulfed and flames spreading to a nearby house from the embers in the air. Officers quickly ascertained that two elderly women were inside the residence.

Officer Aaron Hernandez also arrived and located an elderly male resident disoriented near the burning house and moved him to a safe location away from the smoke and fire. Officers Kerr and Wilder went around the back and located an elderly female resident at the sliding glass door of the burning house. Officer Kerr carried her to a safe location across the street. While doing so, Officer Wilder heard what he thought was some type of tapping on a window to a back room. He approached the window and saw an elderly female resident laying on the floor who appeared unresponsive. Officer Wilder broke out the window as Firefighters who were now inside the house searching

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located her. Firefighters lifted the female through the broken window to the Officers and additional Firefighters who found her unconscious and not breathing. Officer Wilder and Firefighters began life saving measures by performing CPR. The female was transported to a local hospital where she was eventually revived and currently listed in critical condition. The male and other female resident were also transported to a local hospital for smoke inhalation and a broken leg, both listed in stable condition.

Firefighters extinguished the fire to the house and vehicles and the cause of the fire is still under investigation. The Red Cross was notified and will be providing assistance to the residents.

Thanks to the strong cooperative efforts by both the Riverside Police and Fire Departments, the lives of 3 elderly residents of the La Sierra community were saved.



(Photo by Bob Markin – Retired RFD)



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