



Modesto Regional Fire Authority

“We Care”

3705 Oakdale Road
Modesto, CA 95357
Phone: 209-552-3600
Fax: 209-552-2512

Office of the Fire Chief
Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 2, 2014
PIO Division Chief Sean Slamon
Phone: 209-552-3723
Email sslamon@modestorfa.org

Christmas Tree Fire Damages Modesto Home

Modesto CA - January 1, 2014, at 9:58 p.m., a working structure fire response was dispatched to 1505 Seasons Way for a house on fire. Early reports stated that someone may still be inside the burning home. Engine 4 was first on scene and found light smoke visible. The occupant met the first arriving company and indicated that everyone was already out. He also said that they had broken out a window and extinguished the fire with a garden hose.

Engine 4 and Engine 5's crews were directed to the interior of the structure to check for any remaining fire. Truck 1 secured utilities and checked the attic for extension. A hose line off engine 4 was used to extinguish the remaining fire and an exhaust fan was set up to remove the smoke. The living room and kitchen were damaged by the fire, heat and smoke. The rest of the unit suffered smoke damage.

The fire was determined to be accidental and caused by the Christmas tree falling over and up against the lit fireplace. A family of six has been displaced due to the fire. The Red Cross responded to the scene to provide disaster assistance to them. Fire loss is estimated at \$50,000 structural loss and \$10,000 contents loss. Five engines and one truck responded to the scene. A total of 21 Modesto Regional Firefighters responded to the incident.

The Modesto Regional Fire Authority would like to remind everyone of how dry Christmas trees can get, and to dispose of them properly. A dry tree in a fireplace can erupt into flames and cause significant damage to oneself and to your home. Don't do it!





~END~

Regards,

Hugo P. Patino, Jr.

Battalion Chief

Modesto Regional Fire Authority