

# Alameda County Fire Department NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## *Firefighters Battle 4-Alarm Apartment Fire in San Leandro 30 Residents Displaced, 1 Resident Injured*

San Leandro--On Tuesday, May 24, 2011, at 3:01 PM, 17 companies of Alameda County firefighters responded to a report of a structure fire at the Chateau Manor Apartments at 724 Lewelling Boulevard. First arriving units responded quickly to find a four-story, 142-unit apartment complex with heavy smoke and flames surging from the second, third and fourth floors of the building. As a result of the rapid moving fire conditions, exposure potential and high wind conditions, the Incident Commander requested resources for a 4-alarm Alameda County (internal) response and a 2-alarm mutual aid (external) response.

With smoke visible from nearly 5 miles away, Alameda County firefighters commenced an aggressive interior fire attack with hose lines on the billowing flames while additional firefighters cut strategic holes on the roof to allow smoke and heat to escape. Over 60 members of the ACFD were able to knockdown the bulk of the fire in 30 minutes before the fire could spread to the remainder of the adjacent buildings in the apartment complex. It took firefighters an hour to fully contain the blaze.

While Alameda County firefighters battled the 4-Alarm fire, 6 fire engines, 2 fire trucks and 2 Battalion Chiefs from the Oakland, Hayward, Piedmont, Fremont and Alameda Fire Departments provided mutual aid during the incident and maintained coverage in various Alameda County fire stations in the unincorporated areas and San Leandro.

A total of 17 apartment units sustained damage during the fire. Four of the units sustained severe fire damage and are uninhabitable, and 13 units sustained moderate smoke damage. In total, the Red Cross was contacted to assist approximately 30 Chateau Manor displaced residents with temporary shelter and food.

There was one injury to a Chateau Manor Apartment resident reported during the fire. During the initial onset of the fire, an adult was treated at the scene for minor injuries and released shortly thereafter. There were no injuries to firefighters. After a four hour fire investigation, Fire Investigators determined the area of origin of the fire to be a unit on the second floor of the apartment building. The exact cause of the fire is undetermined.

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