



NEWS RELEASE

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TUCSON FIRE BATTLES THREE ALARM BLAZE NEAR ORACLE ROAD AND GRANT ROAD

Dispatch Time – 3:37 P.M.
On-Scene Time – 3:40 P.M.
Under Control – 4:42 P.M.

Dozens of calls were made to 9-1-1 reporting flames and smoke coming from a large building located in the 600 block of West Alturas Street. The first firefighters arrived three minutes after being dispatched and found a two story block constructed building with dark black smoke coming from the second floor. Firefighters forced entry and pulled hose lines into the structure for fire attack. Upon entry, interior crews encountered dense black smoke and high heat conditions with their thermal imaging camera (TIC) showing temperatures in excess of 700 degrees Fahrenheit near floor level. Crews were forced to back out of the structure and look for another avenue to attack the fire. Simultaneously, a ladder company had made its way to the roof to perform vertical ventilation by cutting a large hole in the roof with a chainsaw. This evolution removes smoke and superheated gasses making it more tenable for firefighting operations. While the ladder company was on the roof, fire ground commanders noticed the fire had moved directly below them and was compromising the roofs integrity and ordered them off the roof immediately. At this time operations were moved to the defensive mode which means no crews inside. A second alarm was also dispatched to help battle the fire. Within several minutes of going defensive the roof had a catastrophic failure. This building was located in the center of a large mobile home park and was believed to be used primarily for storage. Several mobile homes had to be evacuated due to proximity to the fire building and smoke conditions. TFD crews were able to stop the fire from spreading to any of these homes despite the windy conditions. Two aerial ladders were used to deploy master streams as well as a deck gun from a fire engine and several large diameter hose lines. It is estimated that it took over 150,000 gallons of water to bring the approximately 5000 square foot building fire under control. In total sixty-two firefighters responded from twenty-four units. The first two alarms were assigned immediately to fire attack positions while the third alarm was used to rotate personnel. Fire crews remain on scene at this time rendering the area safe.

Origin – Under Investigation
Cause – Under Investigation
Damages Estimate – TBD

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