

RANCHO SANTA FE

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FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Rancho Santa Fe, California 92067-0410

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SPRINKLER SAVES LIVES, HOME IN 4S RANCH

4S RANCH, Calif. — Firefighters from the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District who (RSFFPD) responded Tuesday night to a garage fire in a 4S Ranch neighborhood credit the sprinkler system installed in the home with alerting the family and containing the fire to the garage. Due to the sprinkler activation, the family was able to escape the home and damage from the fire, which was confined to a small area of the garage, was minimal.

The call for assistance came in at approximately 10:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 4, 2005. Firefighters stationed at RSFFPD's Station 2 were dispatched to a structure fire in the 16100 block of Cayenne Creek Place. Upon arrival at the scene, the engine discovered a fire in the garage that had been extinguished due to the activation of one sprinkler head.

The owner of the residence stated that he and his wife were watching TV when they were alerted to the fire by the sprinkler alarm bell. Upon investigation, he found the source to be in the center of the garage, located in an assortment of combustible material. The majority of the fire had already been extinguished by the sprinkler system. The owner moved items in his garage so that the sprinkler could fully douse the fire, while his wife safely escorted their two children across the street to a neighbor's house.

"The sprinkler definitely saved this home, and possibly the lives of those in the home," said Captain Fred Cox, who responded to the call. "If there had not been a working sprinkler system in place, the fire would have spread very rapidly before anyone inside noticed. By that time, it would have been difficult to save the home and those inside could have been severely injured."

The cause of the fire was determined to be discarded smoking materials. While the owner sustained a small burn to his right hand while helping to extinguish the fire, no other injuries were reported. There was no structural damage, which allowed the family to return to their home

that evening. The personal property loss was limited to under \$500.

This is the fourth time in the last two years that sprinklers have extinguished a structure fire within the RSFFPD. In each scenario, the heat from the fire activated the nearest sprinkler head, immediately dousing the flames with water, minimizing property loss and injuries.

The Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District spans approximately 42-square miles and protects over 18,000 citizens. The Fire District currently operates out of four full-time fire stations serving communities within and surrounding Rancho Santa Fe, Fairbanks Ranch, and 4S-Ranch. The Fire District encourages the use of sprinklers and other preparedness measures as a means of promoting fire-safe communities. For more information about the RSFFPD and fire safety, please visit www.rsf-fire.org.

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