

Rancho Santa Fe



Fire Protection District

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SPRINKLERS SAVE HOME

On Thursday, July 17, 2008, at 9:33 p.m., firefighters from the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District responded to a reported structure fire in the 18000 block of Via Catania. Upon arrival they found a golf cart inside the garage of the home completely involved in flame. The fire had also begun to spread to other items in the garage including the structure itself.

The garage was equipped with a sprinkler system, which activated. While the sprinklers did not put the fire out, it did slow the fire down which confined it to the garage. The alarm from the sprinklers also alerted the resident of the danger and allowed him to safely exit the home and call for help.

“The sprinkler system was definitely a factor in this incident,” said Fire Marshal Cliff Hunter. “If there had not been a properly functioning sprinkler system in place, the fire could very easily have spread to the rest of the home, but because the sprinklers activated, the flames were slowed until firefighters arrived to extinguish the fire.”

The fire was caused by an electrical problem with the golf cart, which was plugged in to be charged at the time. The golf cart was destroyed and other items in the garage, including a scooter, were damaged. It is estimated that the structure sustained \$100,000 in damages and the accessories in the garage accounted for another \$100,000 loss. It took 15 minutes for firefighters to get the fire under control. There were no injuries reported. Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District and Solana Beach Fire Department responded to the incident with 13 firefighters and one paramedic unit. Battalion Chief Fred Cox served as the Incident Commander.

The mission of the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District is “To protect life, property, and environment through prevention, preparedness, education and emergency response.” Formed in 1946, the Fire District spans approximately 42-square miles and protects over 26,500 citizens. The Fire District currently operates out of four full-time fire stations and serves the communities within and surrounding Rancho Santa Fe and 4S-Ranch.

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