

## 2-alarm fire destroys 2 Del Mar apartments

**DEL MAR** — A two-alarm fire destroyed two apartments and damaged two others Tuesday at a three-story building that is part of a large complex just off Del Mar's main thoroughfare and a block from the beach.

A resident of the eight-unit building on Camino Del Mar, near 27th Street, at the Beach Colony complex called 911 to report the blaze at 2:51 p.m., fire officials said. The second alarm was called at 3:13 p.m.

The building has two stories of apartments and a carport at ground level.

One end unit and the unit above it were fully involved in flames when firefighters arrived, said Battalion Chief Bret Davidson, who works for the Del Mar, Encinitas, Solana Beach and Rancho Santa Fe fire departments.

"The potential was that the whole building could have gone down," Davidson said.

The fire started in the second-floor unit and the flames spread to the third-floor unit. All residents, including a man and a woman in the unit where the fire started, safely evacuated.

The blaze was under control in about 35 minutes. The cause is under investigation. Two adjacent units suffered smoke and water damage.

About 30 firefighters responded. Solana Beach firefighter Greg Marchi rescued a frightened cat that bit and scratched at his gloves, Davidson said.

Nancy O'Connor, a nurse who lives in another building at the complex, was home when the fire began and went to alert neighbors, including one with a 5-month-old baby.

"The firefighters were awesome," O'Connor said. "They were here so quickly. ... they are to be commended for the response and the way they isolated the fire. It was very impressive."

Edward Romanov lives in the third-floor apartment that was destroyed. He is a financial consultant and was at work when the fire began. He is grateful his cat, Lily, is OK. "She's a little freaked out," he said.

He lost most everything in the apartment. "What's not burned is pretty much melted," he said. But he said he wasn't worried. "They are just material possessions," he said.

Written by

**Susan Shroder**

6:20 p.m., Aug. 9, 2011

**Updated 7:34 p.m.**

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2011/aug/09/blaze-sweeps-through-del-mar-apartments/>

 The North County Times - Californian

## **DEL MAR: Four units scorched in condo fire**

**By BRANDON LOWREY** [blowrey@nctimes.com](mailto:blowrey@nctimes.com) | **Posted: Tuesday, August 9, 2011 3:27 pm**

DEL MAR ---- A blaze charred four condominium units Tuesday in the 2800 block of Camino Del Mar, displacing its residents, authorities said.

No injuries were reported. The fire began at 2:49 p.m. and took firefighters 35 minutes to put out, said Deputy Chief Scott Henry of the Encinitas Fire Department.

Six engines, two trucks and a medical unit responded to the fire, he said. The cause remained under investigation.

<http://www.nbcсандiego.com/news/local/Gov-Brown-Establishes-New-Fire-Proection-Fee-128280418.html>

## Gov. Brown Establishes New Fire Protection Fee

By Lindsay Hood

| Tuesday, Aug 23, 2011 | Updated 5:18 PM PDT



AP

People living in fire districts serviced by CAL FIRE can expect to pay up to \$90 in fire prevention fees.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) passed emergency regulation on Monday which will effect anyone who lives in a state fire responsibility area, including 1.2 million acres in San Diego County.

The regulation is a direct result of Assembly Bill 29, which was signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown on July 7, 2011. The law required CAL FIRE's board to adopt emergency regulation by Sept. 1, according to CAL FIRE's Daniel Berlant.

Governor Brown enacted the law in order to save \$50 million of CAL FIRE's general budget by raising \$50 million for the department's Special Fund, which covers a portion of the state's budget to fight large wildfires, Berlant said.

CAL FIRE separated San Diego County into three separate severity zones, moderate, high, and very high. Residents living in moderate or high zones will only pay up to \$70, while those living in the very high zones could pay up to \$90, Berlant said.

The department did allow for three fee exemptions that would reduce the cost for property owners. Any property owner who has had a current defensible space inspection by CAL FIRE would receive a deduction of \$10. Homeowners who live in a county which has a fire safety element in their general plan or fire safety regulations certified by the department, which San Diego has, would receive another \$10 deduction. The third fee reduction is given to property owners who already pay a local fire protection fee which would reduce the fee by another \$45, most San Diegans live within a fire protection district.

San Diegans could see a fee anywhere from \$5 - \$90 once the fee exemptions are calculated.

The emergency regulation is only temporary.

"The emergency regulation can only occur for 180 days, after that the board will move forward with permanent regulations," Berlant said.

The regulation has a number of issues that need to be addressed and the governor has asked the board and fire districts to give feedback. Berlant expects new language, which could change the new regulation, to come out at any time.

The State Board of Equalization says don't expect a bill before January 2012.

Posted Tuesday, Aug 23, 2011 - 3:32 PM PDT

Source: San Diegans to Pay New Fire Protection Fee | NBC San Diego