

After Action Review
4321 Sol Vista Drive Fire

1. What was our mission?

On the night of August 11th 2017 we responded to an alert of a structure fire on Sol Vista and Point House Trail. Upon arrival the primary structure was fully involved and was a total loss. Our duty at that time was to protect life and property. Protecting exposures and preventing the spread of fire was our goal.

2. What went well?

Our crew responded with our three major apparatus placing 3500 gallons of water on scene and was flowing water within 10 minutes. Hand lines were used by cutting through the thick brush and were used to protect the exposure closest to the primary structure fire. By containing the fire until help arrived from the county M.E.R.T. group and the county strike teams and with four exposures in danger, we were able to contain the fire to the primary structure and only one exposure loss. No one was injured despite the hazardous conditions.

3. What could have gone better?

A phone call to the station was dropped several minutes to the alarms going off. This may have reduced the response time. Also the phone alert to the chief's phone was delayed, contributing to his delayed response time. Getting a water supply was hindered by construction material blocking access. With limited manpower removing the obstruction created a substantial delay in obtaining a steady water supply. Instead of taking the time to move the banded stack of lumber out of the way, a secondary water source was attempted which only contributed to the delay.

4. What might we have done differently?

Considering that no one was hurt there may not have been much more that could have been done. Although, removing the obstruction would have taken less time than attempting a secondary water source. Subsequent reviews of the event by the staff pointed out several shortfalls of equipment and the need to re-evaluate our thinking about how we approach these types of situations in the future. We will be working on making improvements in training and address the equipment needed to continue serving the island with the lessons learned from this event.

5. Who needs to know?

There are reports that guest staying in 4341 Sol Vista (exposure 1) had noticed a burning smell earlier in the day of the fire. This smell was also noticed by guest staying in a house south of the fire. Neither of them made a report to the fire department at the time. The guest in exposure 1 did ultimately make the call to 911 and got their family out of the house safely. Notice to the fire department earlier in the day

or evening about the smell may have prevented the total loss of the primary structure, the loss of the exposure structure and the heat and any other related damages to the other three exposed structures.

Submitted by

Chief Robert Kinniry