



PRESS RELEASE

City of Visalia Fire Department

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Exhaust Fan Causes Fire in Vacant North Visalia Apartment

At 11:26 a.m. on Monday, October 24, 2016 one engine from the Visalia Fire Department was dispatched to the smell of smoke near an apartment complex located at 709 E. Houston Avenue. Upon arrival the fire crew visualized light to moderate gray smoke coming from the eaves near an upstairs apartment unit. It was confirmed that there was a fire in this unit and a first alarm response was requested. The crew on scene then set up hose lines and waited for other units to arrive before making a fire attack. In the meantime they were notified that this was a vacant unit and the occupants of the other five adjoining apartments were evacuated. Once the crew was set up they made entry into Unit 17 and found moderate smoke throughout the apartment and then located the fire in the bathroom. The ceiling in the bathroom was pulled down and an exhaust fan was found to be on fire with smoldering insulation around it that was quickly extinguished. The fire was contained within 10 minutes to the area above the bathroom and the other unit next door received only light smoke damage.

Fifteen fire personnel from three engines, one truck, two Chief officers, and one Fire Marshal responded to this fire. The exact cause of the fire was determined to be electrical caused by a malfunction in the exhaust fan.

The estimated property loss was \$7,000 and the total value of the apartment complex that was saved was approximately \$700,000. There were no contents in the apartment unit at the time of the fire.

Approved By: Battalion Chief Darrin Hughes

Release To: Media City Admin City Wide