



FORT BRAGG POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Fort Bragg, CA 95437-5437

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Chief of Police

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PRESS RELEASE

Releasing Officer: Sergeant Jonathan A McLaughlin
Report Number: FC1801172
Date / Time Incident: July 21, 2018 / 8:33 A.M.
Location of Incident: 391 S. Sanderson Way
Crime or Incident: Structure Fire
Victims: Multiple

CIRCUMSTANCES:

On July 21, 2018, at approximately 8:33 a.m., Officers from the Fort Bragg Police Department were dispatched to the 300 block of S. Sanderson Way for a report of structure fire. Officers responded to the location code 3 (lights and sirens) and arrived on scene at 8:34 a.m. Upon arrival Officers immediately insured everyone was out of the structure and began evacuating the surrounding residences. Officers located four victims on scene that required medical treatment. They were transported the Mendocino Coast District Hospital where they were treated for burns and smoke inhalation. Members of the Fort Bragg Fire Department, California Department of Fire, and Mendocino Fire Department arrived and quickly extinguished the fire.

While on scene Officers contacted Kevin Lutz. Lutz identified himself as a resident of 391 S. Sanderson. He informed officers he had smelled smoke and went outside to see if something was burning. As he exited his residence he realized the building was on fire and evacuated his family. He then heard a female and children screaming in the upstairs apartment. Realizing his upstairs neighbor and her children were trapped he grabbed a mattress from his child's room and threw it out the rear bedroom window. He and another neighbor, identified as Ernesto Calzadilla, then caught the children as they were dropped by the mother from the second story window. Finally they caught the mother who leapt from the window. The Fort Bragg Police Department would like to recognize Kevin Lutz and Ernesto Calzadilla for this brave and selfless act that allowed the mother and her three children to escape to safety.

The American Red Cross has been contacted and notified of this incident. They are currently working with the displaced families to provide services. If you know of anyone who was displaced by this incident and has not been contacted; please have them contact the American Red Cross at 707-577-7600.

The cause for the fire starting is not known yet, but arson is not suspected. Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Fort Bragg Police Department at (707) 961-2800 or our anonymous Crime Tip Hotline at (707) 961-3049.

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