



Loudoun County, Virginia
Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management
Press Release
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Monday, September 15, 2008

For Immediate Release:

Meadowood Fire Investigative Report Released Saturday, September 13

On Saturday, September 13, the Loudoun County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management released the comprehensive investigative report on the events that led to the injuries of seven (7) members of the Loudoun County Fire-Rescue System during the May 25, 2008 Fire on Meadowood Court in Leesburg, Virginia. The Department is sharing the Investigative Report in an effort to reduce and prevent firefighter injuries and Line of Duty Deaths (LODD) in the County, Region, State and National Fire Service.

Seven Loudoun County Fire and Rescue personnel were injured on the Meadowood Court Incident, four while performing initial interior firefighting operations and three later on the fire ground. In total, five of the injured have returned to work. Two other firefighters continue to recover from the injuries sustained on this incident, including one of the firefighters who was severely burned.

Around 1:00 PM, Sunday, May 25, 2008, Loudoun County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management received a 9-1-1 call for a structure fire in the 43000 Block of Meadowood Court in Leesburg. Fire and rescue personnel arrived on the scene to find heavy fire coming from the two-story single-family home. The fire spread rapidly as fire and rescue personnel performed fire ground operations. They quickly searched the home for occupants and initiated a fire attack.

Minutes after the initial arriving units from Fire Station 6 and the Incident Command Staff, a rapid and catastrophic change of fire and smoke conditions occurred in the interior of the house. Four personnel from Reserve Engine 6 and Tower 6 became trapped on the second floor of the single-family home. A Mayday transmission was made by the crews because of the life-threatening situation. Due to the intense fire, heat and smoke conditions, firefighters were forced to self rescue from the structure.

The Loudoun County Fire Marshal's Office, assisted by members of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) and the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATFE), determined that the two-alarm fire was accidental. According to Chief Fire Marshal William Keith Brower, the fire resulted in estimated \$600,000 loss.

Over the past three months, an investigation team, lead by Division Chief Richie Bowers of Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services, was tasked with obtaining all available incident facts and to communicate a factual review of the incident to the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue System. The information contained in the report documents events that lead up to the incident, the incident operation(s), the firefighter mayday, and incident mitigation to include the initial treatment and transport of the injured personnel. Members of the team included:

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- Division Chief Richie Bowers (Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service)
- Battalion Chief Jennie Collins (Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue)
- Battalion Chief Scott McKay (Arlington County Fire Department)
- Acting Deputy Chief Corey Parker, (Loudoun County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management)
- Fire Commissioner Bill McGann, (Loudoun County Fire-Rescue Commissioner and member of Hamilton Volunteer Fire Company #5)
- Captain Justin Green, (Loudoun County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management)
- Technician Greg Moore, (Loudoun County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management)

Investigative Team Support:

- Lieutenant Nicole Hankin, (Loudoun County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management)
- Firefighter/Medic Denise Gay, (Loudoun County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management)

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