



### **NEWS RELEASE**

**DATE:** July 10, 2009  
**CONTACT:** Anne McGrath  
**PHONE:** 831.646.5692  
**RELEASE:** Immediate

## **ALVARADO STREET FIRE UPDATE 10 A.M.**

More than 60 firefighters from Monterey and surrounding communities knocked down a "significant" fire at 411 Alvarado Street in the early morning hours of Friday, July 10. Monterey Fire Department responded to a call at 2:45 a.m. in a downtown building and when they arrived at the scene found fire in the basement. Fifteen fire engines and two fire trucks from Salinas, Salinas Rural, Marina, Seaside, Pebble Beach, North County, Cypress and Carmel Valley responded to the fire. The fire was deemed significant because it was in a building attached on either side by two other buildings, the Golden State Theatre and a former bank building. One firefighter suffered a minor injury.

The fire forced the closure of four streets in the area for several hours. Alvarado Street from Del Monte to Pearl, Franklin Street from Pacific to Tyler, and Tyler

- MORE -

Street from Del Monte to Bonifacio were cordoned off until about 9 a.m. and then those streets re-opened during the morning as fire equipment was pulled from the scene.

Businesses in the area, including Alvarado Street, opened as usual this morning and pedestrians had access to the downtown. The one business that is closed is the Jugem Restaurant on the first floor of the burned building. Anyone coming to the downtown area is encouraged to park in the East or West garages or any of the lots just off Alvarado Street. Alvarado is open from Pearl to Bonifacio with on-street parking available there. Alvarado will be fully re-opened with one-lane of traffic in the area immediately in front of the burned building late this morning.

The building at 411 Alvarado Street is a historic building, constructed in the early 1900s. It was purchased by the Marrotta family in the 1950s and they have run their family businesses from offices on the upper floors of the building. A collection of accordions, owned by the family, was in the building at the time and firefighters were able to remove about a dozen of them.

The cause of the fire is under investigation. The City's Building Official is examining the structural safety of the building but it appears to be sound at this hour.