



NEWS RELEASE

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ALVARADO STREET FIRE UPDATE 2 P.M.

Business has returned to normal in downtown Monterey following an early morning fire in the 400 block of Alvarado Street. All streets in the area are open. Pedestrian access and on-street parking is available. The fire caused minimal disruption to downtown businesses because it was contained by 5:45 a.m. and fully extinguished by 7 a.m. Damage to the building is estimated at \$1 million.

More than 60 firefighters from Monterey and surrounding communities knocked down what was deemed a "significant" fire at 411 Alvarado Street in the early morning hours. Monterey fire 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

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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 to two other buildings, the Golden State Theatre and a former bank building.

The fire forced the closure of three streets in the area for several hours. Alvarado Street from Del Monte to Pearl, Franklin Street from Pacific to Tyler, and Tyler Street from Del Monte to Bonifacio were cordoned off until about 8 a.m. and then those streets re-opened during the morning as fire equipment was pulled from the scene.

Businesses in the area, including those on Alvarado Street, opened as usual and pedestrians had access to the downtown throughout the morning. The one business that is closed is the Jugem Restaurant on the first floor of the burned building. 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 family businesses from offices on the second floor. A collection of accordions, owned by the family, was in the building and firefighters were able to retrieve some of them.

The cause of the fire is under investigation. The City Building Official is working with a structural engineer to establish the integrity of the building.

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