



NEWS RELEASE

DATE: July 15, 2009
CONTACT: Anne McGrath
PHONE: 831.646.5692
RELEASE: Immediate

RE-CAP OF RECENT FIRES

The Monterey Fire Department has responded to 4 fires in recent weeks, including an early morning fire today at Latitudes Restaurant at 631 Oceanview Boulevard in Pacific Grove. The Latitudes' fire was contained to the roof and extinguished within ten minutes upon arrival of three fire engines and two ladder trucks, which responded from three Monterey Fire stations and Pebble Beach Community Service District Fire Department. The Pacific Grove Police Department is investigating the fire as suspicious after finding an incendiary device at the scene.

On Monday, July 13th Monterey Police responded to an alarm at Creative Visions, located at 800 Lighthouse Avenue in New Monterey. Upon arrival, officers found the building on fire and evidence that the building was broken into. Units

- MORE -

from the Monterey Fire Department extinguished the fire. No injuries were reported and damage to the business is estimated at \$50,000. The fire at 800 Lighthouse is being investigated by the Monterey Police Department as possible arson.

On Friday, July 10, Monterey Fire Department responded to a call at 2:45 a.m. in a downtown building at 411 Alvarado Street and when they arrived at the scene found fire in the basement. The fire was contained by 5:45 a.m. and fully extinguished by 7 a.m. Damage to the building is estimated at \$1 million. The cause of the fire is under investigation, pending reports on the building's structural integrity and possible hazardous materials.

On July 7, 2009, the Monterey Fire Department responded to a reported structure fire at 498 Park Street Monterey just before 10 p.m. Fire crews arrived in four minutes and found a two-story apartment complex with smoke and flames on the first floor. Damage to the building is estimated at \$250,000. A preliminary investigation of the cause of the fire finds that it appears to be accidental.

For more information on the investigation into the Pacific Grove fire, contact Commander John Nyunt of the Pacific Grove Police Department at 648-3156

For information on the Lighthouse fire investigation, contact Lt. Leslie Sonne of Monterey Police Department at 646-3971.

####