

El Centro Fire Department, 1910 North Waterman Avenue, El Centro, CA

## **News Release**

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### **EL CENTRO APARTMENT FIRE KILLS TWO**

El Centro, Calif. — The El Centro Fire Department was dispatched to 1507 Barbara Worth Dr. for smoke seen in an apartment at 0304 hrs. on August 17, 2014. While in route, fire dispatch reported a structure fire at 633 Commercial Ave. with victims trapped inside. Immediately, the Station 1 and Station 2 fire engines re-routed to the scene on Commercial Ave. The Station 3 fire engine continued to the Barbara Worth Dr. address.

The Station 1 firefighter crew of three (3111) arrived on scene within one minute and found heavy smoke coming from the first story apartment located at 633 Commercial Ave. The firefighter pulled a hose line and the fire captain was notified by bystanders that there were victims inside the structure. The 3111 captain went to the rear of the structure and found an ECPD officer and an unconscious male outside of the apartment lying in a

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recycle bin. After the fire captain and police officer rescued the patient away from the building, the man became conscious and told the fire captain his wife and 3-year-old son were still inside on the apartment. The 3111 captain looked inside of the window and found his wife unconscious on the floor. The captain and PD officer attempted to pull her out of the window, but were ineffective. With the assistance of a hose line, the 3111 firefighter and captain went in through the apartment window and attempted to rescue the woman out of the window unsuccessfully.

The Station 2 firefighter crew of three (3112) arrived on scene two minutes later and began to assist in the search. The fire crew from 3112 was tasked with forcible entry through the front security door using a rotary saw and also pulling an additional hose line. The captain and firefighter from 3112 went into the structure and began to extinguish the fire. They continued the search for the 3-year-old boy. 3111 rescued the woman, carrying her through the front door. 3112 immediately found the boy inside a bedroom and carried him out the front door. Both patients were unconscious, with no pulse or breathing. Medical treatment was started by the firefighters, including mouth to mouth resuscitation. Treatment was passed on to Gold

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Cross Ambulance Service and all three patients were transported to El Centro Regional Medical Center. The firefighters extinguished the fire and began investigation.

The patients were flown by medical helicopter to San Diego. The 3-year-old boy, Anthony Rico, and 22-year-old female, Alexis Carrillo, later died at UC San Diego Regional Burn Center from smoke inhalation at the incident. The fire, caused by electrical equipment, started in the living room and has been ruled unintentional.

Any time there is a structure fire, especially in the home with the loss of life, the El Centro Fire Department would like to reiterate the use of smoke detectors. This year, the National Fire Protection Associations' fire safety campaign is "Smoke Alarms Save Lives." Remember to check your batteries once a month and change your batteries twice a year. When the time changes, "Change your clocks and change your batteries!"

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