NEWS RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THREE-ALARM STRUCTURE FIRE IN THE CITY OF EL CENTRO

On the morning of Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 9:28 a.m., the El Centro Police & Fire Dispatch Center began receiving multiple 911 calls for a report of a residence on fire near 7th St. and Olive Ave. in the City of El Centro. The first El Centro Fire Department Engine Company arrived on scene at 9:31 a.m., three minutes after the initial 911 call, and found a residence fully involved with fire, creating a Second Alarm incident, requesting an additional Engine Company from Imperial County Fire Department.

El Centro Firefighters quickly performed an aggressive fire attack at 735 Olive Ave. Two Fire Engines and Two Rescue Squads attempted to protect the residences to the West and East of the structure on fire. Fire crews carried out an interior attack with minimal progress and the decision to go defensive was made. A Third Alarm was requested, asking for assistance from more resources throughout the Imperial Valley. Fire Engine Companies from Brawley, Holtville, Calexico and Centinela came to assist, along with a Ladder Truck from Imperial County.

Despite strenuous efforts from the fire crews, the fire expanded to the neighboring four unit apartment complex to the East and two individual cottages to the West. Radiant heat and superheated gases allowed for the spread. All mentioned structures were affected and suffered smoke and fire damage.

Fire crews remained on scene battling the blaze until approximately 1:30 p.m. Over 30 Firefighters brought the blaze under control. No injuries to civilians or firefighters were reported. The Imperial County Chapter of the Red Cross assisted with six displaced families. El Centro Fire Department Investigators are currently working to determine the cause.

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