



Loudoun County
Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency
Management
INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN



Subject: Meadowood Court Investigation

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Approved: _____

Joseph E. Pozzo
Joseph E. Pozzo, Chief of Department

On Monday, June 9, 2008, Loudoun County Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Management released tape excerpts from the Meadowood event through FOIA requests. The names of those injured during the incident were not released with the tapes. Furthermore, at the direction of Chief Pozzo, the privacy of those injured is to be maintained and the names are not to be released at this time.

Please keep in mind that with the release of the tape excerpts, another round of questions/inquiries from the media may occur. Should questions arise, please remember the event is still under investigation and any responses should guard against influencing the outcome.

Injuries:

- One Loudoun County Firefighter remains at the Washington Hospital Center Burn Center in serious, but stable condition.

Incident:

- Around 1:00 PM, Sunday, May 25, 2008, Loudoun County Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Management received a 9-1-1 call for a structure fire in the 43000 Block of Meadowood Court in Leesburg.
- Fire and rescue personnel arrived on the scene to find heavy fire coming from the attic of the two-story single-family home and the fire was quickly spreading. Firefighters went to work to quickly perform a search of the home and initiate fire attack. However, with the fire spreading and conditions deteriorating rapidly, the firefighters were forced to escape from the home through a second-story window. In the process of escaping, four firefighters were injured. Two additional firefighters were injured while working on the fireground.

Fire Cause:

- The Loudoun County Fire Marshal's Office, assisted by members of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) and the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), determined that the two-alarm fire was accidental. According to Chief Fire Marshal William Keith Brower, the fire, which resulted in an estimated \$600,000 damage, started when discarded smoking materials ignited nearby combustibles on the deck of the home. The fire then spread up the exterior of the house and into the attic.
- The Loudoun County Fire Marshal's Office often partners with the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), as well as other agencies on large-scale incidents that may result in significant injury, loss of life or significant dollar loss. Due to the significant injuries and dollar loss, the LCSO and ATF were brought in to assist with the investigation.

Investigation Continues

- The investigation is ongoing.

Any detailed questions are to be referred to Mary Maguire, Public Affairs Officer.