

MEDIA RELEASE

Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2009
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Residential Structure Fire - 215 Venus Road

St. Tammany Fire District No. 1 firefighters were summoned to their second residential structure fire in four hours at 6:58 AM today at 215 Venus Road in Rocket Ranch Mobile Home Park off of Military Road.

The first arriving fire company found a working fire in the home when they arrived on the scene at 7:03 AM. An aggressive attack was employed by firefighters who entered the mobile home and brought the fire under control in approximately six minutes.

According to Fire District No. 1 Fire Chief Larry Hess there were no injuries either to the resident or firefighters. The fire was a single alarm residential structure fire assignment that brought 22 firefighters, 3 fire engines, a water tender, a heavy rescue unit, and several staff vehicles on the scene.

Hess also noted that the resident after exiting the structure re-entered it in an effort to combat the fire himself.

“I cannot stress strongly enough that people need to resist the urge to re-enter a burning building” Hess stated. Clearly, the increased risk of going back into an environment that is quickly deteriorating to the point that it will not support life is beyond the point of appreciation for most people not familiar with the chemistry of burning materials. Make no mistake, Hess said, this is exceptionally dangerous.

Hess further noted that the residence had no smoke detector unlike the earlier fire that the firefighters had responded to at 1517 Hillary at 1:47 AM. In this instance, the smoke detector activated alerting the residents to the fire.

Hess stated that these two fires illustrate valuable lessons learned regarding the re-entry of residents into a burning structure and the need for operating smoke detectors.