

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Robert Sapien, Jr.

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: October 17, 2019

Approved



Date

10-17-19

INFORMATION

**SUBJECT: SAN JOSE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND AMERICAN RED CROSS
CONTINUE TO SAVE LIVES AND "SOUND THE ALARM"**

On August 14, 2019, Fire Department resources were dispatched to the Sunshadow Mobile Home Park for a reported structure fire. Upon arrival, Engine 26 reported "smoke showing" from a mobile home and initiated actions to conduct extinguishment and search and rescue. The fire originated in a back bedroom of the mobile home and no occupants were found in the structure. Once the fire was knocked down, two adult mobile home residents were located safely outside. One of the residents reported that she was in a bedroom and heard a smoke alarm sound. She came out of the room to investigate and found that smoke was filling the home. She alerted the second occupant and they both safely exited the home. This home was fortunate enough to have smoke alarms installed by "Sound the Alarm" volunteers, just six months prior, on February 16, 2019.

The Fire Department has partnered with the American Red Cross, Silicon Valley Chapter in its "Sound the Alarm" campaign. "Sound the Alarm" is a component of the American Red Cross Home Fire Campaign which seeks to reduce death and injury from home fires by 25% by the year 2020. Since September 2017, the Fire Department, American Red Cross, and volunteers have focused efforts on mobile home communities. Thus far, fire prevention and safety education and smoke alarm installations were conducted in 1042 homes at 12 different mobile home communities. In total, 2963 smoke alarms have been installed to protect San José residents.

The safe escape by these residents on August 14, 2019 clearly underscores the importance of smoke alarms and the value of "Sound the Alarm" efforts. Inspiring for all, the resident who was initially alerted by the smoke alarm was reunited on scene with the same Red Cross volunteer who had installed the smoke alarm in February. Thanks to the "Sound the Alarm" program and volunteer efforts, these residents were quickly alerted to the smoke and fire and were able to escape safely by having an established evacuation plan.

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The Fire Department will continue to partner with the American Red Cross, Silicon Valley Chapter to install reliable smoke alarms and educate mobile home park residents on the importance of smoke alarms, escape plans, and fire prevention. The next “Sound the Alarm” event will occur on Saturday, October 19, 2019 at Silver Creek Mobile Estates at 1520 E. Capitol Expressway.

/s/

ROBERT SAPIEN, JR.

Fire Chief, San José Fire Department

For information about the American Red Cross Home Fire Campaign, visit:

<https://www.redcross.org/local/california/northern-california-coastal/about-us/our-work/home-fire-campaign.html>

For questions, please contact Robert Sapien, Jr. at (408) 794-6952.