



Everyday Heroes *in* Action

Businesses Burn In Panorama City

Photo by Juan Guerra

On 10:31 p.m. April 18, nine companies of Los Angeles Firefighters; three LAFD Rescue Ambulances; three Arson Units; one Rehab Unit; one Hazardous Materials Team; two EMS Battalion Captains; two Battalion Chief Officer Command Teams; one Division Chief Officer Command Team; Transportation and DWP employees; L.A. County Health; and a Building and Safety Inspector; under the direction of Assistant Chief Jeffery S. Mottram, responded to a greater alarm structure fire at 9044 N. Woodman Ave. in Panorama City.

First arriving Firefighters on scene found heavy smoke coming from the back of a one-story commercial building. Further investigation indicated the fire was in the occupancy in the center of the small, strip-mall-type complex. As Firefighters vigorously deployed hand lines to gain control of the fire, the multiple heat holes cut by the ventilation team spewed fire, indicating the fire had progressed into the attic. The IC was prompted to request additional companies to gain control of the fire. A consideration was made to go defensive with master streams, but the deployment of additional 2.5-inch hose lines by Firefighters from the added incoming companies, thwarted the progress of the fire by blasting out the drop ceiling and reaching the seat of the attic fire. Members were alerted that a large portion of the roof was unstable and at 11 p.m., the majority of the roof collapsed.

It took 68 Firefighters 37 minutes to achieve a knockdown on the fire. There was one minor injury to a Firefighter, who was taken to an area hospital. The cause is under investigation. The estimated loss is \$600,000.

