
Rio Dell City Hall
675 Wildwood Avenue
Rio Dell, CA 95562
(707) 764-3532
cityofriodell.ca.gov



PRESS RELEASE

5-8-2025

Press Release: Fatal Residential Fire on Riverside Drive

Rio Dell, CA – At approximately 7:17 a.m. on Thursday, May 8, 2025, the Rio Dell Police Department and Rio Dell Fire Department responded to a report of a residential structure fire on the 1000 block of Riverside Drive.

Fire crews from the Rio Dell Fire Department, with critical assistance from the Fortuna Fire Department, were able to contain and extinguish the blaze before it spread to neighboring homes, preventing more extensive damage.

During the response, it was determined that one occupant had been rescued from the residence by a neighbor. Tragically, a second occupant was located inside the structure and was pronounced deceased at the scene. The identities of those involved are being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

Preliminary investigation indicates that the fire was likely caused by an unattended candle inside the home. At this time, there is no evidence of foul play.

The Rio Dell Police Department and Rio Dell Fire Department commend the quick and courageous actions of local residents who helped minimize this tragedy. We also extend our sincere thanks to the Fortuna Fire Department and the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office for their valuable assistance.

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