

Contact : Chris Jelinek, Battalion Chief

On February 3rd at approximately 6:30 PM Humboldt Bay Fire responded to a reported residential structure fire in the 2400 block of Union Street. Three fire engines, one ladder truck and two chief officers responded. Upon arrival first arriving crews observed smoke and flames coming from a first floor window to the rear of a two story duplex. As engines and the truck company arrived units were assigned to extinguish the fire, ventilate, and search for any trapped occupants. All occupants safely escaped from the fire. Unfortunately, during their search firefighters located two cats. The animals were removed and given resuscitative care (CPR). One cat survived but the other unfortunately succumbed to his injuries.

The fire was knocked down in approximately 10 minutes, with full extinguishment and overhaul taking approximately one hour. American Red Cross personnel provided the fire victims with assistance in locating temporary housing and food.

The preliminary fire investigation indicates this was an accidentally caused fire, the result of cooking oil which spilled onto a stovetop. Once it ignited the fire spread to cabinets and other combustibles in the apartment's kitchen. Damage estimate is about \$25,000.