

CDF fire station reduced to ash

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SUMMIT — The California Department of Forestry had to fight a structure fire Friday night — at one of its own stations.

The CDF Loma Prieta fire station at Summit Road and Highway 17 burned to the ground after a fire broke out Friday around 10:30 p.m. The flames reduced the building to charred rubble and destroyed the fire truck and rescue vehicle parked inside. No firefighters were inside the building when it burned because it was a volunteer post and had no sleeping quarters.

"The firefighters ... couldn't believe their ears when they heard the dispatcher telling them that the fire station was on fire," CDF

officials said in a press release.

Investigator Frank Lewis said they haven't yet determined what caused the fire but he believes it began on the side of the building closest to Summit Road. Neighbors in the area reportedly saw the flames and called 911, but by the time crews arrived the building was fully engulfed in flames. Damage estimates have been set at \$570,000. New fire trucks, according to officials, cost around \$200,000 each, totally unequipped.

Lewis said the fire was unfortunate but not bizarre simply because no firefighters were at the station when the flames broke out.

"It (the station) is not really more exempt than any other



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

Warning tape surrounds the ruins Saturday as investigators try to determine how the fire started.

building," he said. "Things happen."

The 45-year-old station had suffered significant damage during the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, said CDF Division Chief Dan

Turner. The department had studied the possibility of moving the station to a new location. CDF will temporarily enlist the equipment of the Burrell station and other agencies to compensate for the lost trucks, if necessary.



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Very little was left standing at the CDF's Loma Prieta fire station on Summit Road after it burned Friday night.