



Santa Cruz firemen worked Sunday night to put out Ferrari Florist shop fire.

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Arson Probe In Fire

Fire broke out Sunday at The Ferrari Florist Shop at 1222 Pacific Avenue Garden Mall, with the blaze doing at least \$35,000 damage, according to an estimate by the Santa Cruz Fire Department.

Meanwhile, police classified the incident as arson, although nobody has been arrested for starting the fire.

A fire department spokesman said that firemen were met by a wall of flames when they arrived at the scene Sunday shortly before 6:20 p.m. Two vans and the carport they were completely involved in flames when firemen arrived.

By the time firemen first surveyed the situation, the fire had penetrated the walls and extended to the attic and roof. "This made the fire very difficult to control," the spokesman said. "It required 28 men and about three hours to extinguish the fire."

The fire apparently began near the two delivery vans and spread to a storage area containing combustible pine needles and other floral supplies.

The building, an old structure once used by the Elk's Lodge as a meeting hall, is still finished in natural hardwood and was not extensively damaged by the fire.

Nevertheless, the fire damage was set at about \$35,000, and smoke damage also was major.

While the Santa Cruz firemen fought the blaze, off-duty personnel and firemen from the Live Oak Fire Department were called to the empty SC firehouse to be ready in case another fire broke out somewhere in town. While firemen fought the Ferrari fire, two other alarms sounded, but neither incident was serious.

The florist shop sponsors a Christmas preview show each year, although the owner of the shop, David Ferrari, was not available for comment today as to whether there will be a show this year.

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