

# Beach Flats fire controlled

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SANTA CRUZ — Fire broke out Saturday afternoon at The Dolphin apartments in Beach Flats, causing heavy damage to

six apartment units and moderate damage to two units.

No one was injured in the fire, although a woman motorist suffered minor injuries when a fire engine collided with her car at

2-17-85

the intersection of Laurel and Front streets.

Adults and children found themselves without homes after the fire, which started at approximately 1:54 p.m. in the small apartments at 136 Liebrandt Ave.

Cause of the fire is under investigation, said Santa Cruz Fire Department Division Chief Don Eisele.

Twenty-one firefighters responded to the blaze. Eisele said it took 30 minutes to bring the fire under control.

Santa Cruz firefighters were assisted by units from the Scotts Valley and Central fire districts. Also, Felton firefighters manned the downtown Santa Cruz station as a backup team while the fire was being brought under control.

There were conflicting reports about how many tenants were displaced. Eisele estimated 35 persons — about half of them children — had been displaced.

Red Cross volunteer Iris Black said seven families — including some 15 persons — had been displaced.

She said one tenant saw smoke, then grabbed her two children and ran out of their apartment.

Black said only a few tenants were home at the time the fire started. She said one of the eight units was vacant.

Red Cross volunteers manned an emergency shelter, with food and bedding, for the displaced residents on Saturday night at Messiah Lutheran Church.

By 10 p.m. Saturday, two families with several children were staying at the shelter. Volunteers were expecting three more families to take advantage of the shelter Saturday night, and possibly through the weekend.

A Central Fire District engine, driven by fireman William Creed, collided with a car while enroute to help Santa Cruz firefighters battle the blaze.

The driver of the car, an unidentified woman in her 20s, was reported to have minor injuries. She was taken to Dominican Hospital.

Riding in the truck with Creed was Capt. Joe Tereria. The firemen were not hurt.

The woman's car sustained moderate damage. The fire truck had minor damage.

The fire engine was traveling east on Laurel Street and the car was going south on Front Street.