



News from: Office of the City Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Update from the City of Oakland on the 31st Avenue Fire at 6:30 p.m.

A three-alarm fire broke out on Friday, December 2, at 11:32 p.m. at 1315 31st Avenue in Oakland. The fire has resulted in a terrible tragedy.

There are nine confirmed casualties. As of 4:30 p.m., all nine people who were initially located have been recovered and transported to the Coroner's Bureau for identification.

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We are working on compiling an accurate list of those who are unaccounted for. Fortunately, a number of people who were initially reported as missing have been located.

At this time, the combined efforts of the Oakland Fire Department, Oakland Police Department and the Alameda County Sheriff's Office are focused on search for and recovery of victims and providing support to the families. For most of the day and evening, Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf spoke with families of the victims and continues to offer them our deepest sympathies.

The badly damaged building has required shoring, and first responders have begun retrieving the deceased. The roof of the building collapsed onto the second floor which has complicated the process of recovery effort. This process will be undertaken in a methodical and thorough process in a humane and compassionate manner to ensure that the victims are recovered and identified, and to make sure their families have this information as expeditiously as possible.

In the coming days, after the recovery phase is completed, our focus will shift to a thorough investigation of what occurred. We are committed to bringing every resource to bear to determine what happened here and how such a tragic event could have occurred. Our priority is to bring closure to this tragedy for the victims' families.

Oakland Fire Department is currently working with the Alameda County Sheriff's Department, Oakland Police Department, Alcohol Tobacco and Fire, CAL OSHA, Alameda County Search and Rescue and the American Red Cross to secure the scene, continue the recovery effort and conduct the investigation into the cause of this deadly fire.

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office will be managing the victim identification process and working with the Oakland Police Department to provide additional updates.

The last permitted use of the building was as a warehouse. On November 13, 2016, the City of Oakland received complaints of blight and unpermitted interior construction at the building. On November 17, 2016, a City building inspector visited the property and verified the blight complaint, but could not gain access to the building to confirm the other complaint regarding unpermitted construction.

This is an ongoing investigation.

Our city has experienced a tremendous tragedy. As a community, we can come together in recovery and spirit. The Oakland A's have set up a site for donations for Oakland Fire Victims at

<https://www.youcaring.com/firevictimsfoaklandfiredec232016-706684>.

The Alameda County Coroner's Bureau has established a Family Assistance Center in coordination with the American Red Cross, located at 2425 E. 12th Street. Family members and friends looking to locate loved ones may go to the center. Grief counseling and resources are available to families affected by this tragedy. We are requesting that only families and loved ones go to the Family Assistance Center and ask that the media respect the privacy of families at this time.

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Editor's Note: The next update briefing will be held at 8 a.m. on Sunday, December 4, at International Boulevard and 31st Avenue.