



News from: City of Oakland

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Update from the City of Oakland on the 31st Avenue Fire

On the morning of Wednesday, December 7, search and recover efforts at 1315 31st Avenue were concluded. A secondary search by recovery personnel and cadaver dogs was made and returned no additional victims.

Streets in around the fire scene will re-open as the security perimeter shrinks over the next few hours.

Media Contact:

Karen Boyd
kboyd@oaklandnet.com

OPD Media
opdmedia@oaklandnet.com

Facebook: CityofOakland

Twitter: @Oakland

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office Coroner's Bureau has notified 32 families, an additional 3 notifications are in process and 1 victim needs scientific identification.

In addition to the previously released names, the Coroner's Bureau has released the names of two more of the 36 victims:
Jason McCarty, 35, Oakland, Calif.
Wolfgang Renner, 61, Oakland, Calif.

There is a correction to the city of residence for a previously released name:
Vanessa Plotkin, 21, Lakewood, Calif.

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office Coroner's Bureau is identifying the victims to the public by the names their families ask for, and will note the legal name, if different, on the official death certificate, according to law. They are consulting with an LGBT diversity consultant to assist in appropriate gender identification.

The identified victims' families have been notified. The City of Oakland extends condolences to the families who have received the dreadful news that one of their loved ones perished in the fire.

During this tremendous time of loss and grief for the families and friends of the victims, the City of Oakland encourages the media to respect their need for privacy.

The Family Assistance Center at 2425 E. 12th Street will be fully staffed today.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is continuing their investigation into the source of the fire. "ATF is looking at every possible source of ignition," said Special Agent in Charge Jill Snyder. "There is no timeline for the conclusion of the investigation. ATF experts will be on scene for possibly several more days examining physical evidence. The analysis of data and interviews may take several weeks."

Our city has experienced a tremendous tragedy. As a community, we can come together in recovery and spirit. A roster of community events honoring the victims and links to donation sites including the Oakland Fire Victims site established by the Oakland A's (www.tinyurl.com/OakFireRelief) can be found at oaklandnet.com.

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