

**Contra Costa County**



**Fire Protection District**

Fire Chief  
KEITH RICHTER

## **Contra Costa County Fire Protection District**

**Press Update Saturday, July 21, 2007 12:01 p.m.**

CONTACTS: Battalion Chief Dave George 925-383-5011  
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### **Two Fire Fighters and two civilians perish in San Pablo house fire**

Two Contra Costa County Fire Protection District firefighters and two civilians died early this morning in a house fire at 149 Michele Drive in San Pablo.

“Our greatest sympathy is extended to the families and friends of these firefighters, and the victim’s,” said Fire Chief Keith Richter. “This includes our extended family of all brother and sister firefighters. It is a sad day.”

The two firefighters who gave their lives in the line of duty were Fire Captain Matt C. Burton, 34, a resident of Concord CA and Fire Engineer Scott P. Desmond, 37, a resident of Brentwood CA.

At 0143, Engine 70 was dispatched to a fire alarm. While en route, based on additional information, the incident was upgraded to a structure response. The on-scene report indicated that two people were inside.

Four engines, including three from Contra Costa County Fire District and one from Richmond Fire Department responded.

Engine 70’s crew, after finding and assisting in one rescue, continued searching for a second victim. During this rescue effort they became trapped. Despite valiant rescue efforts, two firefighters and the occupants perished as a result of the fire.

The names of the residents of the house, a man, 67, and woman, 62, are withheld until next of kin are notified by the Sheriff-Coroner’s office.

The incident is under investigation. More information will be on our web site when it is available, [www.cccfpd.org](http://www.cccfpd.org)