

February 8, 2019

Sean Campbell, Battalion Chief
Arcata Fire District
Office | (707) 825-2000
scampbell@arcatafire.org
www.arcatafire.org

Chimney Fire leads to Roof Fire

McKinleyville, CA – February 7, 2019 – Arcata Fire District was dispatched to a chimney fire with possible extension to the roof at a house on Glendale Drive near Highway 299 yesterday afternoon.

The first arriving Chief Officer reported a working roof fire with difficult access down a rural driveway. As part of an automatic-aid agreement with Arcata Fire's neighboring agencies, Fieldbrook Fire, Blue Lake Fire, CAL FIRE Trinidad, and Humboldt Bay Fire Districts also responded to the house fire.

As firefighters arrived, they had to walk into the scene approximately 600 feet because the first arriving engine laid a "Rural 8" hose line down the driveway toward the fire as they drove in from the main access road. A Rural 8 hose lay allows a water supply shuttle to be set up on the main access road and prevents the fire engines and water tenders from being lined-up like a train down a rural driveway with no turnaround points. As resources arrive to the fire, the driver/operator typically stays with the fire engine to support the water shuttle while the firefighters walk into the scene to support the firefighting operation.

Battalion Chief Campbell states, "Rural firefighting operations pose a lot of challenges to every fire department. There is usually a delay in the time firefighters arrive, road conditions can be poor, access to the house can be poor, and water can be non-existent. Rural firefighting operations require even more firefighters than urban firefighting operations. We typically lose one third of the firefighters to water shuttle operations. This requires us to call for more resources because we still need 13-15 firefighters to fight the fire."

The fire resulted from a chimney fire extending to the shake roof and caused more than \$57,000 in loss. Firefighters saved the house and all of the owner's property, which is valued at over \$349,000.

###



www.arcatafire.org