



## Ceres Department of Public Safety

Art de Werk, Chief/Acting City Manager/Director of Public Safety



### Chief Art de Werk

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Ceres Firefighters Save a Woman From a House Fire**

Ceres, California - On 09-12-12, at 1426 hrs, neighbors called 911 reported seeing smoke coming from the second floor of a house in the 800 Block Rocky Brook Dr.

When the Ceres Firefighters arrived, they saw a moderate amount of gray smoke billowing from a second floor window. The firefighters found the front door locked and had no response to their announcements. They forced their way inside and began a search in the dense, gray, smoke-filled home for any residents. The thick smoke cloaked the entire second floor down to about five feet above the ground level.

While searching the first floor, the firefighters found an active fire in the kitchen and heard a woman screaming from the second floor. Now that a person was heard inside the house, the call was upgraded to a second alarm and two ambulances were requested to respond to the scene.

A team of three firemen made their way up to the second floor, locating a 42 year-old woman at the top of the stairs. One of the firefighters carried the victim down a flight of stairs and out of the house with the aid of his fellow firefighters.

An awaiting team of firefighters prepared to render medical care tended to the victim until ambulance arrived. The victim did not appear to have any visible injuries other than smoke inhalation. The initial rescue team of firefighters re-entered the home to continue the search and extinguish the fire. The victim was transported to a local hospital by ambulance where she received treatment. The woman's current condition is unknown.

The fire was contained to the kitchen area. The rest of the residence sustained moderate smoke damage. The cause of the fire is under investigation by the Ceres Fire Marshal.

For further details on this heroic act of valor, contact Michael Lillie, Ceres Fire Battalion Chief, (209) 538-5709.