



WILLIAM McDONALD - FIRE CHIEF

# LAS VEGAS FIRE & RESCUE

# ***FIRE NEWS***

For more information: PEIO TIMOTHY R. SZYMANSKI 702-303-2993

[www.lasvegasfire.org](http://www.lasvegasfire.org)

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DATELINE: 061516/ 1530

RELEASE: 16-070

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Northwest Las Vegas House Heavily Damaged By Fire**

*Neighbors Reported Several Explosions During Fire*

A northwest Las Vegas home sustained extensive damage after a fire with several small explosions occurred in the home. The only occupant was home at the time of the fire. The American Red Cross is assisting the displaced occupant. There were no injuries during the incident.

Fire dispatchers received numerous 9-1-1 calls at 11: 00 a.m. that the garage of a house at 3944 Coconut Court (Alexander/Rainbow) was on fire and several small explosions were also occurring. Some said there was one large explosion followed by fire then smaller explosions.

When firefighters arrived heavy flames and smoke was coming from the garage of the two story wood frame/stucco house with smoke starting to seep out several places around the house especially on the roof. This was an indicator that the fire was spreading fast in the house. Firefighters also had to rescue the occupant who was in the backyard of the house with his dog. His gate was locked and he did not have the key to open the gate. Firefighters got both of them to safety across the street.

As firefighters were attacking the fire, several rounds of ammunition was exploding and firefighters were told that fireworks and a large quantity of gasoline was also in the garage. This enhanced the intensity of the fire which caused it to spread.

Not long after firefighters arrived on scene, flames broke through the roof and the house was totally involved. Smoke was so thick in the area it caused police to close Alexander Road for a while because visibility on the street was down to zero.

Within 35 minutes firefighters had the bulk of the fire under control, it was completely out in just over an hour. Just after the fire was extinguished, the garage roof collapsed.

Because of the intensity of the fire and the possibility (and then occurrence) of building collapse, firefighters were not permitted to enter the house during the incident. Even after the fire was completely extinguished, it was still too hazardous for fire investigators to enter the house. A fence is being erected around the house to keep people out.

**MORE ## MORE**

**Las Vegas Fire & Rescue is an I.S.O. Class One agency and is an Accredited Agency by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. The department responds to over 110,000 incidents annually.**

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The cause of the fire is undetermined and under investigation. At this point it appears to be accidental in nature. Fire investigators believe the fire started in the garage.

The only occupant of the house was home, upstairs in a bedroom, when the fire started. He said he heard a loud boom, similar to bookshelves falling off the wall or furniture falling over. He ran downstairs to see what it was and found nothing out of place. He opened the garage door from inside the house and found the garage full of flames and smoke. A laundry room which is inside the house, suddenly filled with flames and shot across the ceiling into the main portion of the house. He said the flames spread very quickly at that point, he escaped with his dog out a back door.

Although there was an unusually large amount of ammunition and fireworks in the garage along with gasoline, fire investigators do not believe they were cause of the start of the fire. Once the fire started and started to spread, those items intensified the fire significantly in a very short amount of time.

The house was extensively damaged, most of contents in the house are destroyed. Damage is estimated at \$200,000. The man's only vehicle was destroyed by fire, it was parked in the garage. He lives alone and has no relatives that live in Las Vegas. The American Red Cross and Las Vegas Fire & Rescue Foundation was on scene assisting.

There were no injuries in connection with the incident.

**END ## LVFR/PEIO-TRS**

E9,42,43,53,45, T43, R9, CB3, EMS1, AR1, B4,10, PIO1, 6i3, 6i8, 6i9, E106,3  
Incident: 6171174

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