A Close Call in the Kitchen

FIRE PREVENTION MONTH · KITCHEN SAFETY TIPS

On the evening of **October 15**, a Neighborhood Watch member heard several smoke detectors going off in an Area 4 unit. Nearby neighbors hadn't noticed. Building Coordinator Vicki quickly provided the resident's phone number, but after a dozen calls, knocking and ringing the doorbell, no one answered, so we called Torrance Fire. Firefighters climbed to the rear upper deck, saw smoke inside, entered and turned off the stove. Items left on the stovetop had filled the unit with smoke, but there was no fire. **Firefighters said that if we hadn't called when we did, it likely would have become something much worse.**



Torrance Fire on scene, October 15. Neighborhood Watch is sharing these lessons from the call.

What We Learned

Building Coordinators: know your neighbors
Keep their phone numbers somewhere you can grab them fast. Vicki's quick help made all the difference.

Plan for a spare key
Leave a copy with a trusted neighbor, or agree on a discreet hiding spot with someone you trust.

Alarm still sounding after 30 seconds?
Check on it. Call the neighbor or your Building Coordinator.

Several alarms going off? Call 911
Don't assume the resident has called. They may not be home, or they may have fallen or passed out.

Closed blinds can hide trouble
There was no smoke or smell outside. Firefighters had to climb up and look through a rear window to confirm it. Keep in mind that blinds can keep police and fire from seeing that you need help.

Lesson learned: always call. Thank you, Vicki, for being a Building Coordinator who had her neighbor's number on hand. It made the decision to call Torrance Fire easier once we knew the resident wasn't home.

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Emergency: 911 Torrance Fire non-emergency: **310-781-7042** Torrance Police non-emergency: **310-328-3456**