

# **SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **Public Information Office**

### **News Release**

Date: December 29, 2008, 9:00 PM  
To: All News Media, FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Subject: EXPLOSION AND FIRE, 4417 HOLLISTER AVE. U-HAUL  
MOVING AND STORAGE  
Contact: Captain Eli Iskow, 805 689-0599

\*\*\*Attached 4 "Santa Barbara County Fire Department Photos"\*\*\*







At 3:49 PM today, Santa Barbara County Fire Department was responded to a reported structure fire at 4417 Hollister Avenue in Goleta, U-Haul Moving and Storage. We initially responded with three Engine Companies, one Ladder Truck Company and one Battalion Chief. We were assisted by an extra Engine Company from Santa Barbara City Fire Department. On our arrival, there was smoke coming from the roof of the structure as well as the eaves and rear of the building. We found two burn victims at the back of the building who had suffered second degree and possibly some third degree burns to their arms and faces. The two victims, both employees, were an adult male and an adult female. Firefighter/paramedics from one of our arriving Engine Companies tended to the victims while other firefighters fought the fire. Fire damage was limited to the back wall of the building, the roof and eaves above the back wall. The interior of that wall inside the office space was opened up to check for any extension of the fire and none was found. The two victims were transported to Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital. **Santa Barbara Fire Department Fire Prevention Investigators have determined that the cause of the fire was from a propane gas explosion. Employees were in the process of purging what they thought was plain air from a new propane tank. The tank was new but actually full of propane gas**

instead of air. The compressor responsible for creating the necessary vacuum to purge the tank also provided the necessary ignition source to cause the explosion of the gas. The cause of this fire is accidental. Damage to the structure and contents is estimated at \$20,000. Please call Cottage Hospital for further information on the condition of the victims

**LIFE SAFETY MESSAGE: \*WHEN HANDLING PRESSURIZED TANKS, BE CERTAIN OF WHAT IS INSIDE OF THEM AND BE SURE TO TELL ANYONE WHO MAY HAVE TO SERVICE THAT TANK.**

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