



Contra Costa County Fire Protection District
Battalion 8

Date: June 4, 2018

Time: 1719 hrs.

Type: Hazardous Materials Call

Location: Gladstone Ct, Pittsburg

Response: 2 Engines, 1 Battalion Chief, 1 EMS Supervisor, 2 Con EMS Ambulances Assisting agencies: Pittsburg PD, Contra Costa County Health Department.

All Concerned:

Just after 5 o'clock this afternoon, members of Contra Costa County Fire Department Hazardous Materials Response Team were requested to assist Pittsburg PD with a suspicious package that was mailed to a local business. Employees opened a package that was addressed to an employee of the business. The employee did not recognize the sender or was anticipating a package. Upon opening the package, they discovered a powdery substance and notified the police. Police determined that the sending address was fictitious and the package originated from southern California. It was sent via the United States Postal Service. The Fire Captain upon his arrival evacuated and secured the building. Two employees were exposed to the unknown substance and were kept isolated to prevent a potential spread of the contaminant. I received a call from the Captain with an update on the situation. Because this was a potential crime scene and the suspicious nature of the package, we decided to upgrade this call from a hazardous condition to a Hazardous Materials call. I responded along with an additional fire engine with two more members of the Fire Department Haz Mat Team, an EMS Supervisor and 2 Con EMS ambulances. County Health Department was notified and additional Haz Mat resources were requested to support the incident. Ultimately it was determined that the contents of the package were a controlled substance known as Ketamine. This is commonly used as a horse tranquilizer. This posed no significant danger to the building or surrounding area. The package was secured by responders and turned over to Pittsburg PD for further investigation. This incident was ran in Unified Command between Con Fire and Pittsburg PD. The USPS Postal Inspector's Office was notified of the situation. There were no injuries to incident responders or citizens during this incident. The incident was terminated just after 10 pm. These type of incidents are usually protracted due to the complexities and potential risks of dealing with Hazardous Materials.

The Package



The Substance



Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this incident.

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