

# Fire Districts

## Public Meetings

### Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors  
**Wednesday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m.**  
*Nov. 21 cancelled*  
 Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas. Visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)



### ConFire

Board of Directors  
**Tuesday, Dec. 11, 1:30 p.m.**  
 Board Chamber room 107, Administration Building, 651 Pine St., Martinez. For meeting times and agendas, visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.



# Orinda teenager dies in early morning house fire

By Nick Marnell



Heat damage to a helmet worn by an MOFD firefighter responding to the Orinda house fire  
 Photo courtesy MOFD

A teenage girl died and three people were injured after a single-family home in Orinda went up in flames in the predawn hours of Nov. 18.

According to fire officials, just before 4 a.m. Moraga-Orinda Fire District units responded to a structure fire at 524 Moraga Way in south Orinda near Ivy Drive. The first arriving unit found the residence engulfed in flames and immediately went into rescue mode after determining that there was an imminent threat to life.

Once firefighters got 10 feet inside the building, the fire flashed, and everything inside the building became combustible.

Two additional occupants and one firefighter were injured. An MOFD firefighter suffered second-degree burns to his shoulder and ear – through his turnout gear – and was treated and released from John Muir Medical Center.

A total of nine engines responded and the fire was controlled at 5:08 a.m. Units from the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District assisted MOFD firefighters on the scene.

The confirmed fatality was Luca Gero, 16, a student and member of the debate team at Miramonte High School. A GoFundMe campaign has been created for the teenager’s family and as of the final week of November had raised more than \$160,000.

“The incident is currently under investigation as is standard for all fatality fires,” MOFD Chief Dave Winnacker said. “The district will not be releasing additional information until the investigation is complete.” Due to the complexity of the incident, the chief gave no timetable for the release of the information.

# Halfway through, Alliance contract a financial and operational success

By Nick Marnell



Photo courtesy ConFire

There were times when Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Chief Jeff Carman felt unsure about the future of the Alliance, the business model that he spearheaded to provide ambulance transport service for most of Contra Costa County, which has performed better than critics expected.

When the county hired Carman in 2013 to run the struggling fire district, he was charged with finding new sources of revenue. “The ambulance contract was the low-hanging fruit,” Carman said, as the county contract with American Medical Response to provide ambulance service was expiring at the end of 2015. Carman reasoned that ConFire could not only provide faster ambulance response times but also provide them more cost effectively by eliminating the duplication of resources on medical calls.

But many thought the chief was taking on too much, and was dangerously shifting the financial risks of an ambulance service from a private company to taxpayers. “There were people saying we couldn’t even run a fire department, so how were we going to run an ambulance service?” Carman said.

The chief quickly learned that he could not do it by himself. Consultants convinced Carman that the prudent thing to do was to team up with AMR as a subcontractor and pitch for the ambulance contract as the Alliance. For \$200 million over five years, AMR agreed to provide ConFire a trained and knowledgeable workforce, equipment and unmatched buying power.

Not all of Carman’s experiences with consultants were positive. An early presentation to the board of directors by a poorly pre-

pared consultant nearly derailed the project. “That presentation was inaccurate, terrible. Were it not for me being new and the board understanding, I think that could have shot us down,” Carman said.

Citygate Associates, a consultant that the county hired to project Alliance financial data, told the board that the numbers would be only 10 percent of what the chief had forecast. “Although it still showed us as being profitable, it wasn’t what I was sharing with my bosses. At the end of the day we were right and they were wrong,” Carman said.

After ConFire secured the five-year contract, things did not begin smoothly, mainly due to technology issues in the district dispatch center. Response times were long. It took over a month for the AMR dispatch center to merge with ConFire’s. “I called for meetings to talk about the issues every morning and ultimately we got it worked out. But for me, it was a nightmare,” Carman said.

Problems also arose with the billing agency. “Things they said they could do they were now saying they couldn’t,” the chief said. “I was watching the finances like a hawk, and with every little glitch I would have someone on the phone. It all worked out, but it was just that there were so many naysayers out there that I didn’t want anything to go wrong.”

Thirty months into the 60-month contract, not much has gone wrong.

According to its 2017 annual report, Alliance 2017 response times on 74,000 transports dropped a minimum of 32 seconds from the 2015 response times under AMR. District records show that Lafayette

2017 response times improved nearly three minutes over the 10 minutes, 37 seconds of 2015, the final year of the county AMR contract.

The county reports Alliance financial information in a special Emergency Medical Services Transport Fund. Revenue for 2017-18 totaled \$51 million with expenses of \$44 million, and as of June 30 the Alliance reported a surplus of nearly \$17 million for its first 30 months of operation.

Perils lie ahead, like the uncertainties of the Affordable Care Act and potentially disgruntled AMR employees who opposed the passage of Proposition 11, requiring ambulance workers to remain on call through their meal and rest breaks. Also hovering is the decision of the California Emergency Medical Services Agency to take away ConFire’s exclusive right to provide county ambulance service, alleging that the county Board of Supervisors suppressed competition in awarding the contract to a company – ConFire – for which it also serves as the governing board. The county has appealed the decision.

Carman agreed that securing the ambulance contract was a career accomplishment, though he still gets nervous knowing that nationwide many are watching the Alliance business model, which is the first of its kind in California.

In 2016, the chief resisted high fives until he saw results after six months. “Now, three years later, we are going strong,” Carman said. “Providing excellent service, using resources efficiently, and remaining financially sustainable – everything we promised.”

# Police Departments

### Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Oct. 29 - Nov. 17



Suspicious Circumstances 4

#### Vehicle violations

- Auto Burglary
  - 900 Blk Of Oakhill Rd.
  - 50 Block Lafayette Cr.
  - Stanley Blvd./Camino Diablo (2)
  - 3200 Block St An Ley Blvd.
  - Brown Ave./Deer Hill Rd.
  - 900 Block Dolores Dr.
  - 3500 Block Mt Diablo Blvd. (2)
  - 3600 Block Mt Diablo Blvd. (3)
  - 100 Block Of Lafayette Cir.
  - 1000 Block Oak Hill Rd. Laf
  - 1000 Block Dyer Dr.
  - 3400 Block Moraga Blvd.
  - 4000 Blk Mt Diablo Blvd.
  - Happy Valley Rd/Mt Diablo Blvd. (2)
- Hit And Run Felony
  - Old Tunnel Rd/Pleasant Hill Rd.
- Hit And Run Misdemeanor
  - 2Nd St/Mt Diablo Blvd. (2)
  - Chestnut St./Dewing Ave.
  - 1600 Block Rancho View Rd.
  - 20 Block Lafayette Cr.
  - 3600 Blk Mt Diablo Blvd.
  - 1200 Blk Pleasant Hill Rd.
  - 3300 Block Mt Diablo Blvd.
- Police Department
  - Moraga Rd./Mt Diablo Blvd.
  - 1000 Block Willow Dr.
- Tc - Fire And Amb Enroute
  - 1100 Block Via Roble
  - Taylor Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
- Tc - Property Damage
  - 3400 Block Mt Diablo Blvd.
  - Reliez Station Rd./Olympic Blvd.
  - N Thompson Rd./Glen Rd.
  - Upper Happy Valley Rd./Rahara Dr.
  - 3500 Blk Mt Diablo Blvd.
  - Pleasant Hill Rd./Greenvalley Dr.
  - 200 Block Lafayette Cr.
  - 800 Block Reliez Station Rd.
- Vehicle Theft
  - 900 Block Moraga Rd.
  - 1000 Block Willow Dr.
  - Mt Diablo Bumt Diablo Ct.
  - 4000 Blk Mt Diablo Blvd.
  - 1000 Block Blackwood Ln.

#### Other criminal activity

- Fraud Credit Card
  - 3400 Block Echo Springs Rd.
- Fraud False Pretenses
  - 3400 Block Moraga Blvd.
- Grand Theft
  - 1000 Block 2Nd St. Laf
- Identity Theft
  - 3600 Block Powell Dr.
  - 1000 Block Miller Dr.
  - 3400 Block Shangri La Rd.
  - 10 Block Hawk Canyon Pl.
  - 1700 Block Ivanhoe Ave.
  - 3300 Block Deer Hill Rd.
- Petty Theft
  - 3400 Block Golden Gate Way
  - 3900 Block Rancho Rd.
  - 3100 Block Stanley Blvd.
  - 3500 Blk Mt Diablo Blvd.
  - 4000 Block Marianne Dr.
  - 3100 Block Stanley Blvd. Laf
- Petty Theft From Veh
  - 3700 Block Mt Diablo Blvd.
- Shoplift
  - 3600 Blk Mt Diablo Blvd. (5)
  - 3500 Blk Mt Diablo Blvd. (2)
- Vandalism
  - 10 Block Moss Ln.
  - 3600 Block Bickerstaff St.
  - 3300 Block Carlyle Terrace
  - Pleasant Hill Rd./Mt Diablo Blvd.
  - Via Roble/Dolores Dr.
  - 20 Block Lafayette Cr.
  - 1300 Block Martino Rd.
  - 1000 Block Carol Ln.
  - 800 Block Solana Dr.
- Nuisance to the Community
  - Disturbing The Peace
    - 3500 Block Mt Diablo Blvd.
  - Loitering
    - 3600 Blk Mt Diablo Blvd.
  - Loud Music
    - 900 Block Hawthorn Dr.
  - Loud Noise
    - 3200 Block De Young Ln.
    - 3200 Block Mt Diablo Ct.

### Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report Nov. 6 - Nov. 19



- Alarms 18
- 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 9
- Traffic 62
- Suspicious Circumstances 11
- Suspicious Subject 10
- Suspicious Vehicle 8
- Service to Citizen 37
- Patrol Request/ Security Check 33
- Supplemental Report 10
- Welfare Check 4

#### Vehicle violations

- DUI Misd
  - St. Marys College
  - Safeway
  - 10 Block Miramonte Dr.
- Excessive Speed
  - Moraga Rd./Commons
  - Rheem Blvd./ Moraga Rd.
  - Devin Dr./Moraga Rd.

### Moraga ... continued

- Excessive Speed
  - Seven Eleven
  - Moraga Rd./Donald Dr.
  - St Marys Parking Lot
  - Moraga Way/Schools St.
  - Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.
  - Larch Ave./Dickenson Dr.
  - Moraga Rd./Ascot Dr.
  - Moraga Way/Hardy Dr.
  - Moraga Way/Moraga Valley Ln.
  - Moraga Rd./School St.
  - St Andrews Dr./Moraga Way
- Hit And Run Misdemeanor
  - Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.
- Reckless Driving
  - Rimer Dr./Camino Pablo
- Safeway
  - Campolindo High School
  - St Marys Rd./Moraga Rd.
  - Moraga Way/Camino Ricardo
  - 1200 Block Rimer Dr.
- Revoked License
  - Moraga Rd./Draeger Dr.
- Traffic Hazard
  - 2100 Block Ascot Dr.
  - 900 Block Country Club Dr.
  - Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.
  - Fernwood Dr./Newberry Pl.

#### Other criminal activity

- Identity Theft
  - 100 Block Paseo Del Rio
  - 30 Block Fieldbrook Pl.
- Shoplift
  - Safeway
  - Rheem Valley Shopping Center
  - San Jose
- Vandalism
  - 2000 Block Donald Dr.
  - 100 Block Calle La Mesa
- Violation Restraining Order
  - Camino Pablo Rd./School St.

#### Nuisance to the Community

- Barking Dog
  - CVS
  - 70 Block Hardie Dr.
- Disturbing the Peace
  - Campolindo High School
  - 2000 Block Ascot Dr.
- Drunk In Public
  - 1200 Block Rimer Dr.
  - 40 Block Miramonte Dr.
- Loud Music
  - 1200 Block Rimer Dr.
- Loud Noise
  - 2000 Block Ascot Dr.
- Public Assembly Check
  - Roundtable
  - Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.
  - Rheem Valley Shopping Center

#### Other

- Accident Property
  - CVS
- Fraud False Pretenses
  - Safeway
- Mentally Ill Commit
  - Campolindo High School
  - Rimer Dr./Tharp Dr.



### Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Nov. 11 - Nov. 17

- Alarms 27
- 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 4
- Traffic 56
- Suspicious Circumstances 5
- Suspicious Subjects 3
- Suspicious Vehicles 10
- Patrol Request/ Security Check 12
- Service to Citizen 19
- Supplemental Report 7
- Vacation House Check 11
- Welfare Check 3

#### Vehicle violations

- Reckless Driving
  - Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.
  - San Pablo Dam Rd./Bear Creek Rd.,
  - Wildcat Canyon Rd./Camino Pablo

#### Other criminal activity

- Commercial Burglary
  - Rite Aid
  - 10 Block Camino Sobrante
- Grand Theft
  - 60 Block Muth Dr.
- Susp Circ/Sexual
  - Miramonte High School
- Warrant Arrest
  - Beverages And More
  - Safeway
  - El Nido Ranch Rd./Acalanes Rd.

#### Nuisance to the Community

- Drunk In Public
  - Miner Rd./Oak Arbor Rd.
- Loud Noise
  - Barbara Rd./Oak Rd.
- Public Assembly Check
  - 10 Block Theatre Sq.
- Public Nuisance
  - Orindawoods Dr./The Knoll
- School Assembly Check
  - Miramonte High School
- Vandalism
  - Bates Blvd./Davis Rd.
  - Beverages And More
- Other
  - Accident Injury
  - Safeway
  - Accident Property
    - Camino Encinas/Moraga Way
  - Prom Shoot
    - 100 Block Ravenhill Rd.
    - 10 Block De Soto Ct.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.  
 Send a letter to the editor: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)

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