



**Fire Department**  
**City of Modesto**  
*"We Care"*

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*Office of the Fire Chief*  
***Press Release***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** January 2, 2010  
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**UPDATED CONDITION FOR FIRE FIGHTERS INJURED IN HOUSE FIRE**

**Modesto, CA** - Last night the two Modesto Fire Fighters that were injured and burned when the roof they were working on collapsed have had their condition updated. Both men are in area hospitals being treated for their injuries.

Injured last night was Fire engineer James Adams, age 46 and Firefighter Jason Clevenger, age 32.

Adams, a 24 year veteran of the Modesto Fire Department, received burn injuries to over 40% of his body and is currently under a physician's care at the UC Davis Medical Center, Burn Unit in Sacramento. While his injuries appear significant, they are not believed to be life threatening. At the direction of UCD personnel, visitors will not be allowed for the foreseeable future, as a safety precaution.

Clevenger, a firefighter with four years of experience in the Modesto Fire Department, suffered burns to 10% of his body. He is being treated and is resting comfortably at Doctor's Medical Center, in Modesto.

The cause of the fire remains the accidental, with the fire having been started when the occupant, who was attempting to fuel a gasoline power generator, caused the ignition when she dropped a lit candle she was using for illumination. The generator was being used to provide some electricity to the house as the electrical service to the house had been disconnected. As a safety precaution, the Modesto Fire Department urges users of generators to be smart when using them. They should be used outside in well ventilated areas. Wait to re-fuel them until they're cool enough and the thread of igniting vapors is reduced. Never use open flame devises to illuminate the work area. Use a flashlight for safety's sake.

Additionally, it appears that either poor construction or an alteration to the roofing members in the garage may have contributed to the unexpected failure of the roof. Structural members were either removed or compromised to the point the roof was not able to withstand the effects of the fire or support the additional weight of firefighters. The fire remains under investigation.

It is often said that the Firefighting community is a brotherhood and a family. That has not been more evident, than it has been today, as the outreach, expressions of concern, and offers of help for the members of our extended family have come in from all around the local fire and law enforcement organizations. Fire Chief Jim Miguel said, "... we are truly grateful for all of the concern and love that has been shown for our injured brothers and their families, today".

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