



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 1, 2025

Pleasant Valley High School Structure Fire

The Chico Fire Department Fire Incident/Investigation Reports

CHICO, CA – On April 25, 2025 at approximately 4:23 PM, Chico Fire Department (CFD) crews (with the assistance from CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department), responded to a reported structure fire at Pleasant Valley High School (PVHS). Upon arrival, CFD's first-in company officer reported smoke coming from the Arts Building. Crews quickly deployed hoselines, accessed the fire room to extinguish the fire and conducted a thorough overhaul operation to ensure fire had not breached the walls and ceiling into adjacent spaces. With the use of thermal imagers and other visual cues (e.g., smoke, embers), crews determined there were no indicators that the fire had spread into the walls, the ceiling, adjacent areas, or void spaces. Crews remained on scene to monitor the building and assist in investigating the fire's origin and cause. The last fire personnel cleared the scene and turned the building over to PVHS staff at approximately 6:36 PM.

At 7:44 PM, CFD crews (with the assistance of CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department) were dispatched to a second fire at PVHS at the same location of the earlier fire (CFD Incident #250005003). Upon arrival, CFD's first-in company officer reported a working structure fire with heavy fire and smoke showing from the Art Building roof. Crews immediately secured water supplies and stretched multiple hoselines for offensive fire attack operations. Crews made entrance into all Art Building classrooms for search and rescue and determined there was a well-involved attic fire. At approximately 8:09 PM, the incident commander announced a strategic shift from offensive to defensive operations. All units re-deployed hoselines to exterior positions to extinguish the attic fire and prevent the fire from spreading to other adjacent buildings.

At 2:37 AM, the incident commander (CFD Battalion 1) terminated command and tasked CFD Engine 15 to remain on scene overnight and monitor the building for potential rekindles.

Members of CFD's Fire Investigation Team (F.I.T.) arrived to the scene to initiate a thorough and detailed investigation of the fires' origins and cause, which are detailed in the investigation reports.

To obtain copies of the Incident and Fire Investigation reports, please go to the Chico City Clerk's website (<https://cityofchicoca.nextrequest.com/requests/25-1179>) to download the documents.

For additional information or media inquiries, please contact the following CFD personnel:

- Chico Fire Department, Fire Marshal, Paul Ricketts (530-897-3496); or
- Chico Fire Department, Fire Chief, Steve Standridge (530-897-3491).

Located in Butte County, California, Chico is the cultural and economic center of the northern Sacramento Valley and the largest city north of Sacramento. Known as a college town, the home of California State University, Chico and for Bidwell Park, one of the largest urban parks in the world. For more information, visit www.chicoca.gov.

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