



SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT
Public Information Office

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Press Release

1600 Hrs

For Immediate Release PST
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Berkeley Way Fire Investigation

(San Francisco, Friday, July 1, 2011) – San Francisco Fire Investigators have determined that the cause of the fire at 133 Berkeley Way that took the lives of Lt. Vincent Perez and Firefighter Paramedic Anthony Valerio was accidental and most likely electrical in nature.

Testing of electrical components and the residential electrical system has not yet been completed, leaving the exact cause yet to be determined.

The fire started one floor below grade in a 4-story single family structure in the Diamond Heights neighborhood on June 2, 2011. Information from an internal Safety Investigation is being compiled into an official report which is scheduled to be released sometime next month. In addition, the San Francisco Fire Department requested the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to conduct an independent safety investigation which is currently underway.

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