



# *Chowchilla Police Department*

David Riviere, Chief of Police  
122 Trinity Avenue, Chowchilla, California 93610



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

On Sunday, December 27, 2015, at approximately 7:35 a.m., Chowchilla Police and Fire Departments were dispatched to the 500 block of N. 11<sup>TH</sup> Street after receiving a 9-1-1 call reporting a structure fire.

Officers and Fire personnel arrived within minutes and found one of the apartments of a triplex apartment complex fully involved. Residents were immediately evacuated from the units and firefighters began to fight the fire, containing the fire to one unit, keeping it from spreading to the other two units. Further assistance was requested to assist with firefighting efforts.

Madera County Engine 2, stationed in the City of Chowchilla and Engine 5, Stationed at Chowchilla Women's Facility, arrived a short time later to assist. PG&E was also requested to turn off the gas and electric to the units.

The residents were moved to a local church while the fire was being extinguished. Due to the amount of water and smoke damage sustained the occupants could not return to their homes. The American Red Cross was contacted and responded to assist with finding shelter for displaced residents.

Further investigation revealed that the involved apartment was occupied by one person, who was located inside deceased. A fire investigator was requested to respond from Cal Fire to assist with this investigation.

The fire investigators and the Chowchilla Police Department are working together to determine the cause of the fire. Should anyone have information about the fire please contact the Chowchilla Police Department at 559-665-8600.

Chief Dave Riviere said, "This was a tragic morning due to the death of the occupant of one of the apartments." However he commended the fire department and other agencies that responded. "It was because of their efforts only one apartment was lost and not all three, and the remaining occupants were evacuated safely and provided food and shelter." "Great team work was displayed at the scene," he said.

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*Service & Safety*

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[www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us/citydirectory/policedir.htm](http://www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us/citydirectory/policedir.htm)