



VALLEJO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Press Release

(707) 651-7147

December 20, 2007 (4:18PM)
Lieutenant Rick Nichelman
www.vallejopd.com

VPD Case # 07-24712

FATAL FIRE INVESTIGATION

Early Thursday morning, at approximately 0015 hours, the Vallejo Fire Department responded to a house fire at 7 Emerald Circle. The single family residence was approximately 50% engulfed in flames as personnel arrived. Neighbors were already engaged in assisting a resident in her escape from a second-story bedroom; she has been identified as one of the home's owners – 55 year-old Theresa Dykes.

As Firefighters began to clear the residence while battling intense flames and smoke, they discovered three deceased victims in second-floor bedrooms. They have been identified as the husband of Theresa Dykes – 56 year-old David Dykes, Dykes' brother – 60 year-old Douglas Dykes, and the 11 month old grandson of the Dykes' – Benjamin Stickle. Absent from the home at the time of the fire were additional residents: 23 year-old Amanda Dykes, who is the mother of the deceased infant, and her sister – 25 year-old Amber Quiros.

Vallejo Police Department Detectives arrived to assist with the investigation after it was learned that the occasional live-in boyfriend of Amber Quiros, whose identity has not been released, was at the home earlier in the evening. Quiros and the male subject have had an at times volatile relationship, and Detectives wish to question him to help define the circumstances surrounding this incident. Vallejo Detectives are working with family members to assist in locating the subject so that he can be interviewed.

Per investigative protocols, a team from the Solano County Fire Investigation Unit responded to the scene to assist with the determination of the cause and origin of the fire. A canine trained to recognize the presence of fire accelerants was also deployed, but it did not alert to any substance. While the scene continued to be examined in an effort to confirm what could have occurred, the cause of the fire remains undetermined at this time.

Victim Theresa Dykes was transported to a local hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation; while she was unable to provide an immediate statement, she is expected to recover.

Anyone with information on this investigation is asked to contact Detective Corporal Steve Cheatham or Detective Joe McCarthy at (707) 648-4524.

The Vallejo Crime Stoppers™ tip line (644-STOP) is a anonymous tip line that offers cash rewards for phone tips that solve violent and/or serious crimes committed in the greater Vallejo area.