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PRESS RELEASE

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CALIFORNIA CONDO FIRE INVESTIGATION CONTINUES

On-scene investigation at the Paramount Condominium Project fire has been completed by the National Response Team (NRT) of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), local ATF agents, and investigators from the Escondido Fire Department and Escondido Police Department. No information will be released regarding the cause of the fire at this time, pending further investigation by local ATF agents, the Escondido Fire Department and the Escondido Police Department.

The fire scene was turned over to the property owner, D.R. Horton, this morning, at a meeting with City officials to determine a plan for removing the debris.

Assistance by the ATF, including the NRT, was requested by the Escondido Fire Department and Escondido Police Department in order to expedite the investigation of the \$6.6 million fire by providing staffing, heavy equipment, and other resources.

Fire Chief Victor Reed is appreciative of the efforts of the ATF, complimenting their efforts. "The ATF NRT did a thorough job processing a large and complicated fire scene, working as a team with investigators from the Escondido Fire Department and Escondido Police Department as well as the local ATF office."

John A. Torres, special agent in charge of ATF's Los Angeles Field Division, said he is pleased with the efforts of the three agencies. "We worked alongside our partners in examining the fire scene, observing the physical evidence and conducting interviews. Working together and the pooling of resources is the most efficient and effective way to investigate these fires," Torres said.

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