



DATE: February 23, 2006

TO: RANDY R. BRUEGMAN, Fire Chief
RICHARD CABRAL, Deputy Chief (Provisional)
Training Division

FROM: TONY ESCOBEDO, Battalion Chief
BC-3/ A-Platoon

SUBJECT: MVU

On February 8th 2006 at approximately 1242 hours we (FFD) responded to a possible structure fire at a large retailer establishment "TARGET" located at 7600 N. Blackstone (Incident #0600980). Please note that this retail store encloses the distal end of a large strip mall (see diagram below). This retail store is approximately 130,000 square feet and its warehouse area is approximately 12,600 feet.

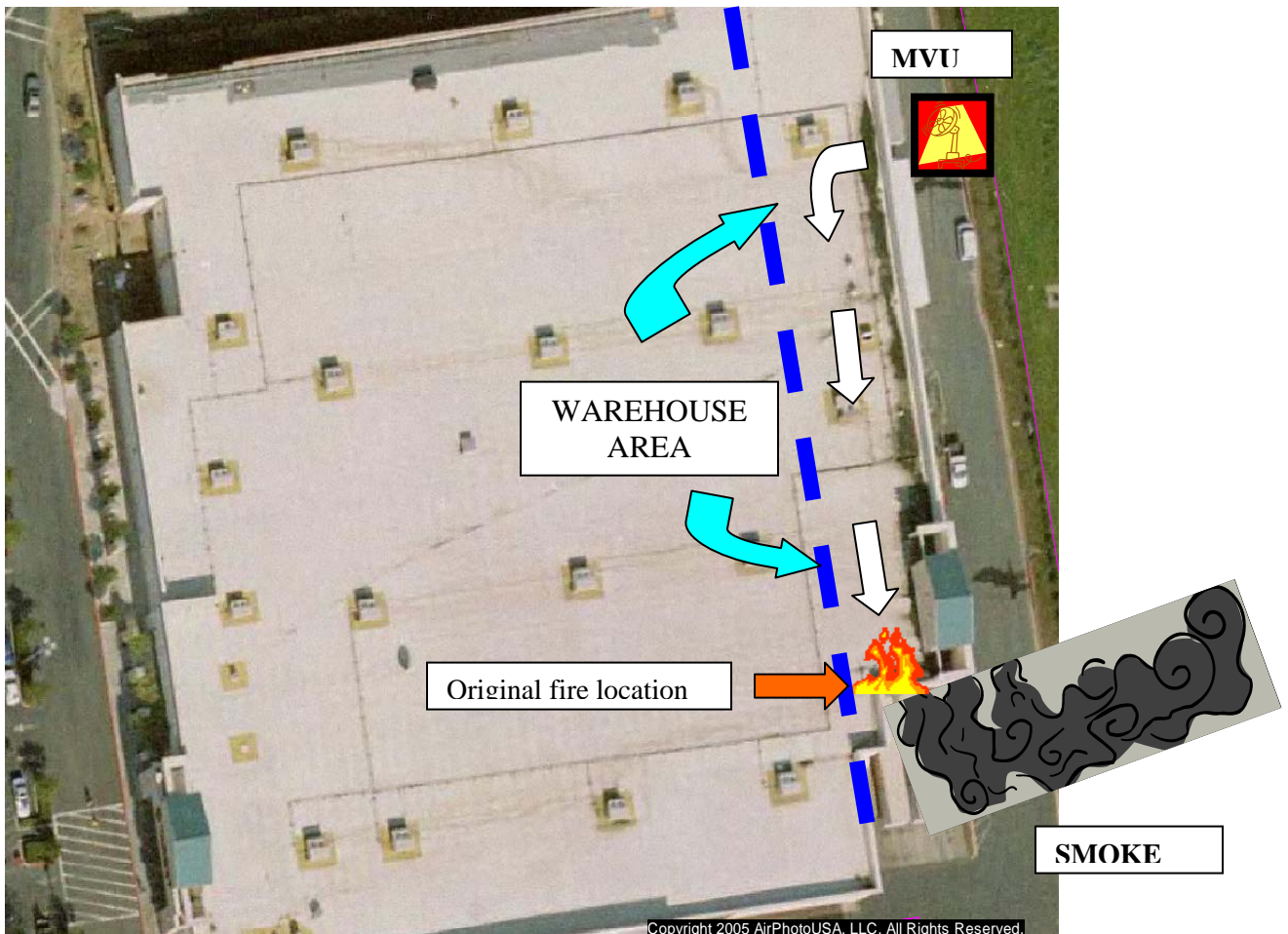
Upon arrival of the first-in engine company they found a small but contained fire in the trash compactor located to the rear of the store. Upon further investigation we learned that the cause of the fire was attributed to a privately hired welder that was tasked to "CUT-OUT" the trash compactor. In the process of cutting some of the metal, the molten drip down caught the trash still in the trash compactor. Fire then caused the entire warehouse area to fill up with smoke. First arriving companies were directed to extinguish the fire and to salvage the products in the warehouse (Food, Clothing, General Product). We then used tarps to seal the doors leading into the main store area and set up to ventilate the warehouse area using our truck company Tempest fans. We knew the fans would not be enough to ventilate this large area but we started it them in the mean time. I then order up the Mobile Ventilation Unit (MVU) from our shop.

Upon the arrival of the MVU we placed it at a strategic location to evacuate all of the smoke in the direction that we wanted. (Please see diagram below.)

"IT WAS AMAZING!!!" The operator started the MVU with ease. The MVU removed all of the smoke form the warehouse in as little as three minutes. It even removed smoke caught in small pocket areas of the warehouse. We were able to save thousands of dollars worth of merchandise and food because of the awesome ability of the MVU. It is my understanding that the MVU had accomplished this task with out using all of its power. The MVU performed marvelous and is it truly the right equipment to have and use when you want to remove large amounts of smoke or just ventilate a large structure. The managers of Target were very pleased and praised the work of the Fire Department. This was nice, but we have to share this compliment with the makers of the MVU and those folks that made it possible for us to have this great piece of equipment. Thank You!



TARGET STORE
7600 N. Blackstone





Fresno F.D. 48" Trailer Mounted MVU™

For more information on this incident:

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For more information on the Tempest Mobile Ventilation Unit:

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