



NEWS RELEASE

Orange County Fire Authority
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Orange County Fire Authority

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Subject: Disabled Man Rescued from Laguna Hills Apartment Fire

Contact: CAPTAIN STEPHEN J. MILLER, (714) 573-6201

Nicholas Hurlbirt, 20, of Huntington Beach is a hero today after rescuing a disabled man from an apartment fire that took place early Saturday morning in Laguna Hills.

Hurlbirt was in the area when he heard an explosion and noticed smoke coming from an apartment on Stockport Street. After running to the apartment to investigate, he found an elderly man in a wheelchair trapped inside the burning apartment. Hurlbirt grabbed a fire extinguisher, and beating back flames, entered the apartment and dragged the man to safety.

Hurlbirt then enlisted the aid of another passerby and using several fire extinguishers, they were able to sustain the fire until fire suppression units from the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) arrived on scene.

Hurlbirt's actions will be submitted to the OCFA's Ceremonies, Awards and Protocol Committee and they will determine what level of award he will receive.

The Orange County Fire Authority is a joint powers authority that serves more than 1.3 million residents in 22 cities and the unincorporated areas of the county.