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Fire at the Hacienda de las Flores

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Fire damage to the Hacienda de las Flores Photo Dana Blatner

On the morning of March 9th heavy smoke started to seep through the roof of the Hacienda de las Flores, a Town-owned building that houses staff offices and space for community meetings and classes.

"The building was evacuated in very good order so no one was exposed to smoke," said Battalion Chief Randy Trompf, who arrived at the scene a few minutes later with his men. Since no flames were seen, the firefighters used thermal imaging cameras that had been donated by the Women's League, and were able to find the source inside the wall. The fire was extinguished in a matter of minutes.

"The cause of the fire is still under investigation," said Trompf on March 12th. He was expecting a result within a week or two. "We need to find the reason for this fire," said Moraga Mayor Dave Trotter at the March 11th Town Council, "and act appropriately to prevent further occurrences."

According to Jill Mercurio, Moraga Town Engineer, the cost of repairs has not been determined and could range anywhere from \$10,000-\$50,000. The Town's insurance policy has a \$5,000 deductible.

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