

## Two-Alarm Fire Engulfs Luxury Yacht

Damages estimated at \$1.5 million

By Dan Abbott

Firefighters spent several hours battling a two-alarm blaze at Mariner Square after a yacht caught on fire early Sunday morning, fire department officials said.

The AFD responded to a call at approximately 2:57 a.m. at 2415 Mariner Square Loop, where the 78-foot luxury powerboat *Linmar* was engulfed in flames, according to Deputy Fire Chief Chris Reilly. The call was reportedly phoned in by a passer-by across the water at Jack London Square.

Reilly said no one was aboard the boat, and there were no reports of injuries. The fire, whose cause remains undetermined, ripped through the *Linmar's* three levels.

"This was a valuable yacht," Reilly said, noting that the initial damage estimate was around \$1.5 million. "When I arrived, (the *Linmar*) was burning on all levels,"

Reilly said. "She was also listing a bit."

Capt. Ken Rankin of the AFD's Fire Prevention Bureau said that although the yacht had sustained "major internal damage," including a hole that burned through the ship's 3-inch wooden hull just above the waterline, the boat was not taking on water.

The engine room was undamaged and the galley (the ship's kitchen) did not appear to be the source of the fire. While the investigation is still in its preliminary stages, the fire likely began in the yacht's luxurious sleeping quarters, "in the bowels of the ship," Rankin said. The *Linmar* was towed to nearby Bay Ship and Yacht. Once the *Linmar* is put in dry dock, a more thorough investigation can be conducted, Rankin said.

According to the *Linmar's* captain, whose name was not available as of press time, the boat had been unoccupied and locked since it was moored following a short cruise Friday, and none of the boat's passengers were smokers, Rankin said.

When firefighters initially

forced entry into the ship's cabin, Rankin said, "the boat burst into flames" from the increased oxygen. By the time he arrived on the scene at approximately 4 a.m., "(The fire) had already been knocked down," Rankin said. "It wasn't blazing."

Rankin said four AFD vehicles were dispatched, and that over a dozen firefighters worked to extinguish the remaining embers until they were relieved by a shift change at 8 a.m.

"It was kind of like a charcoal fire," Rankin said. "It would go out for a while and then blaze up again."

Rankin noted that there was no damage to any adjacent vessels or to the harbor. "The guys did a great job," he said.

The *Linmar* was built in 1932 by the New York Launch and Engine Company and is listed on the Oakland Parks and Recreation Web site as the winner of the 2000 Jack London Lighted Boat Parade. According to Rankin, the vessel appeared to have been in pristine condition at the time of the fire, with an ornate mahogany interior.



The JetSetters program

## EHS Stude

By Diana Chok

In the far corner of the parking lot at Encinal High stands portable 703. At a glance, it blends into its surroundings, but on a closer look a hand-painted "703" sign spunk one would associate with a high school art room, adorned with posters made collaboratively by students, is home to the after-school program.

"Students come here because it's fun. They like having a place where they can be creative and get their homework done."

