



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**Moraga-Orinda Fire District**  
**Orinda, CA**

**BART Train Fire at Orinda BART Station, Orinda**

Moraga-Orinda Fire District  
1280 Moraga Way  
Moraga, CA 94556  
Contact: Stephen Healy, Fire Chief; 925-258-4599  
**Release Date: October 24, 2013**

ORINDA - On Wednesday, October 23, 2013, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District responded to a BART train fire at the Orinda BART Station. The fire was reported to the Fire District at 6:14 p.m. Firefighters arrived at the scene in less than four minutes. On arrival, they found smoke and fire underneath the fifth car of a ten-car east-bound train. BART and the Orinda Police safely evacuated all the passengers. Firefighters contained the fire within minutes, however, mechanical equipment continued to burn for quite some time because it was in an inaccessible area underneath the car. Firefighting operations were further complicated because it was unclear if the burning equipment could still be energized. The Fire District's ladder truck had to be positioned on Camino Pablo, below the platform, to lift a BART employee and a Firefighter up to the outside of the train so they could insure all systems were de-energized and there was a safe work area. Once the car was completely de-energized, the remaining fire was quickly extinguished.

During the incident, a large burning semi-conductor box dropped from the bottom of the train car. The box, weighing over 1200 pounds, made it impossible to move the car so Firefighters and a BART employee crawled under the car to disassemble the box with a cutting torch and saws so it could be removed. As of 2:40 a.m. the Moraga Orinda Fire District and BART employees were at the scene cutting and sawing the box apart, so the car could be removed.

A total of six (6) apparatus with 27 personnel from Moraga-Orinda Fire District and Contra Costa County Fire responded to the incident.

No injuries were reported.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.



Moraga-Orinda Fire District Firefighters extinguishing BART train fire



Moraga-Orinda Fire District Firefighters were forced to crawl underneath the burning train to extinguishing fire



Moraga-Orinda Fire District ladder truck was used to raise personnel from Camino Pablo to trip breaker to de-energize power to the burning train car.





Burnt semi-conductor box prior to removal from platform



Moraga-Orinda Fire District Firefighter and BART employees cutting the semi-conductor box with the torch so box could be removed from underneath train