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A laundry truck ran into live electrical wires near juvenile hall early Monday morning, causing a fire that destroyed the truck and led to the evacuation of several young inmates.

Truck Hits Wires and Starts Fire

Thursday, 13 December 2012 16:41

A truck carrying laundry to the Camp Sweeney area of the Juvenile Hall at 2600 Fairmont Drive hit the wires around 3:30 a.m., according to Alameda County Fire Department spokeswoman Aisha Knowles.

Camp Sweeney is a unit of the Juvenile Justice Center that houses less serious offenders. The truck hit some low-hanging wires in the parking lot.

There were two men in the laundry truck and one of them was a volunteer firefighter in Solano County and knew of the possibility of electrocution, and he led the other passenger to safety by jumping free of the truck.

When firefighters arrived the truck was fully engulfed in flames and the wires were still live. Because of this, the firefighters decided to let the truck burn out and wait until PG&E arrived to turn the power off before trying to do anything, Knowles said.

The fire was contained to the truck. No one was injured and no surrounding buildings were damaged.

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Thirty-five people, including the staff of Camp Sweeney and the young men who live there were briefly evacuated as a precaution. No one was injured.

CAPTION: On Monday afternoon, a crew picked up the charred remains of the damaged laundry truck that struck electrical wires and caused a fire at Camp Sweeney.

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