



KENNEWICK FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dedicated to providing excellent public service and ensuring the safety and well-being of our community and one another. We live, act, and serve our community with the utmost integrity.

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: May 27, 2022
Contact: Chad Michael, Fire Chief
Phone: 509-820-0460
KFD# 22-05189

[Kennewick, WA] On Friday, May 27, 2022, at 3:46 a.m., fire crews from the Kennewick Fire Department, Richland Fire & Emergency Services, Pasco Fire Department, Benton County Fire District No. 1, and Benton County Fire District No. 4 were dispatched to a reported commercial fire. The location of the incident was 211 S. Johnson St. in Kennewick.

The first KFD crew arrived on scene just over 5 minutes after being dispatched, and discovered a fourplex that had a significant amount of fire coming from first and second floor apartments. The first arriving crew quickly applied water on the fire from the exterior of the building in order to begin extinguishment and slow the spread of the fire. After additional fire units arrived on scene, priorities were placed on locating and extinguishing the source of the fire and searching each of the apartments for any occupants. Initial reports from residents and Kennewick Police Officers were that all of the occupants were accounted for except for one. A thorough search of each of the apartments confirmed there were no occupants inside of any of the apartments.

A combined total of 9-10 occupants were inside the apartments when the fire occurred. The fire was discovered by one of the occupants living in an apartment on the second floor that heard what he described as "a beeping sound." He opened a window to investigate the sound, and smelled smoke. The occupant and a roommate went to each of the apartments located within the fourplex to inform their neighbors they needed to evacuate. All of the occupants made it safely out of the fourplex, but one family living in an upstairs apartment was unable to use the staircase to evacuate due to high heat and flames. The family fled to a balcony located on the backside of the apartment where Kennewick Police Officers assisted two young children (Four years old and 9 months old) and their parents to the ground safely.

It took approximately 17 minutes to bring the fire under control. Smoke and fire damage was substantial in two of the apartments, and the other two units sustained heat and smoke damage. The structure will not be able to be occupied by any of the tenants for an undetermined amount of time. The American Red Cross was called to the scene to assist the tenants with temporary living accommodations and other basic needs.

There were no injuries to firefighters. One occupant was evaluated for smoke inhalation, but refused treatments at the scene.

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The cause of this fire is presently under investigation.

The Kennewick Fire Department would like to remind everyone to close exterior doors after fleeing a fire. Open doors provide a fire with the air it needs to spread to other uninvolved areas of a building. The Kennewick Fire Department also wants to remind everyone to make sure working smoke alarms are in place inside of their homes.

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