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## 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.*

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### MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: May 15, 2022  
Contact: Michael Heffner, Deputy Chief  
Phone: 509-585-4553  
KFD# 22-04754

[Kennewick, WA] On Saturday May 15, 2022 at 1:50 a.m., Kennewick Fire Department (KFD) crews were dispatched to multiple reports of a large building on fire in the area of the 4200 block of Clearwater Ave. Firefighters with Benton County Fire District #1, Pasco Fire, and Richland Fire & Emergency Services also responded to assist Kennewick firefighters.

The fire was initially reported to the 9-1-1 dispatch center by a citizen who smelled smoke then saw flames from a building approximately ½ mile away. Arriving fire units quickly determined that the fire was in the back yard of a residence at 4185 W. Grand Ronde Ave involving a garden shed and a line of 40' tall arborvitae trees with flames approximately 60' high. The fire was directly behind an adjacent concrete building that houses the Carpenter's Union Training Center at 4208 W. Clearwater Ave.

The first KFD crew arrived on scene within 3 minutes of being dispatched. The fire was brought under control in approximately 15 minutes using fire hoses to extinguish the fire in an outdoor shed and arborvitae trees. Firefighters extended an aerial ladder onto the roof of the neighboring commercial building to check for exposure to fire.

A total of 20 firefighters responded to the scene. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation. The shed was a total loss, along with the involved arborvitae trees. The concrete building was not damaged despite being exposed to direct flame contact. There were no injuries to firefighters, no damage to adjacent homes, and no impact to power lines.

The Kennewick Fire Department would like to remind the community that as we move into summer, residents are encouraged to reduce the risk of arborvitae fires by ensuring they are trimmed regularly, adequately watered, and kept clear of ignition sources.

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