



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: March 24, 2022
Contact: Chad Michael, Fire Chief
Phone: 509-820-0460
KFD# 22-002900

[Kennewick, WA] On March 24, 2022, at 3:34 p.m., fire crews from the Kennewick Fire Department and Benton County Fire District #1 were dispatched to a natural cover fire. The location for this incident was 1119 W. 53rd. While crews were traveling towards this location, they observed high flames and significant column of smoke. The responding Incident Commander requested additional firefighting resources due to concerns that several homes in the area were possibly threatened by fire.

The first KFD crew arrived on scene just over 7 minutes of being dispatched. Upon arrival at the scene, the crew observed a vinyl fence near a home completely involved in fire, and a fire that was traveling uphill in light grass and tumbleweeds. Initial firefighting efforts were placed on extinguishing the fence fire and ensuring the fire did not extend to the home located within a few feet of the fence. Later arriving firefighting resources were directed to extinguish the fire traveling uphill.

The fire was brought under control within 16 minutes after the first firefighting crew arrived on scene without any damage to structures. The final estimate of total area impacted by this fire was approximately 2.5 acres.

The cause of the fire was ruled as unintentional. The owner of the home located at this address was burning tumbleweeds in a burn barrel. A wind out of the north caused some of the tumbleweeds burning in the burn barrel to travel into dry grass and tumbleweeds located nearby.

The Kennewick Fire Department would like to remind everyone to exercise extreme caution when burning tumbleweeds. The Benton Clean Air Agency does allow tumbleweeds that have been blown onto your property to be burned, but the following safety steps should be in place:

- Check the weather conditions and refrain from burning on windy days.
- Ensure a garden hose with water is located nearby.
- Make sure the fire is monitored until it is completely extinguished.
- Avoid burning near natural vegetation materials such as dry grass or brush.
- Select a location away from your home or fence.

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