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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: March 16, 2022  
Contact: Chad Michael, Fire Chief  
Phone: 509-820-0460  
KFD#s 2202563, 2202575, 22022577

[Kennewick, WA] Tuesday, March 15, 2022 was a very busy day for the Kennewick Fire Department (KFD). Between the hours of 2:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., KFD was dispatched to three residential fires.

At 2:30pm, fire crews from the Kennewick Fire Department, Pasco Fire Department, and Benton County Fire District #1, responded to a residential fire at 109 E. 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. The first KFD unit arrived on scene within 6 minutes of being dispatched, and found a shed heavily involved in fire near the home on the property. While crews were arriving on the scene, they observed several individuals that do not live at this address fleeing from the home. The first arriving crew quickly placed water on the main body of the fire and extinguished it within minutes after arriving on scene. Additional arriving fire resources were assigned to ensure the fire did not spread to the adjacent home located on the neighboring property.

There were no injuries to firefighters or civilians at this incident.

This fire is presently considered suspicious. KFD will be working in coordination with the Kennewick Police Department to gather additional information on the cause of the fire.

At 7:45pm, fire crews from the Kennewick Fire Department, Pasco Fire Department, and Benton County Fire District #1 responded to a residential fire at 1573 W. 52<sup>nd</sup> Ave. The first KFD unit arrived on scene within 7 minutes of being dispatched, and found a two-story home with smoke coming from the garage and the eaves of the roof. Fire crews made quick access into the first floor of the home and located fire inside a wall. Crews were able to access and extinguish the fire with minimal water or fire damage.

Two adult occupants were inside the home when the fire occurred. After noticing a burning odor, they discovered a fire on the first floor of their home and evacuated before calling 911 to report the fire.

There were no injuries to firefighters or civilians at this incident.

The cause of the fire was a problem with the home's furnace.

At 8:14pm, while crews were on the scene of the fire at 1573 W. 52<sup>nd</sup> Ave., the Kennewick Fire Department was again dispatched to 109 E. 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. for another residential structure fire. Fire resources from agencies in both Benton County and Franklin County were dispatched to this fire because all but one of KFD's staffed resources was already dedicated to the residential fire on 52<sup>nd</sup> Ave.

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#### OFFICE OF THE FIRE CHIEF

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Media Release (continued)  
March 16, 2022

The first firefighting resource arrived on the scene within 6 minutes of being dispatched, and found the same shed crews had extinguished earlier that afternoon on fire for a second time. Responding fire crews once again observed several individuals that do not belong at this address fleeing from the scene.

Fire crews were able to extinguish the fire for a second time within minutes after arriving on scene. Fortunately, the fire was contained before it extended to either of the homes located within close proximity.

There were no injuries to firefighters or civilians at this fire.

This fire is also considered suspicious, and KFD will be working in coordination with the Kennewick Police Department to gather additional information.

Off-duty KFD personnel were called-in to monitor both fires overnight. Additionally, KFD requested assistance from the Kennewick Police Department to increase patrols throughout the night in the area of 13<sup>th</sup> Ave.

The Kennewick Fire Department would like to express our appreciation for the assistance provided by our neighboring fire departments. Crews from Richland Fire & Emergency Services, Pasco Fire Department, Benton County Fire District #1, and Franklin County Fire District #3 not only provided assistance with the two fires that occurred at 7:45pm and 8:14pm, they also provided assistance with several emergency medical incidents that occurred during this same time period.

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