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# KENNEWICK FIRE DEPARTMENT

## HONOR ♦ SELFLESSNESS ♦ COMPETENCE

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### MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: Saturday, November 12, 2022

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KFD# 22-12044

[Kennewick, WA] On Saturday, November 12, 2022 at 11:08 a.m., Kennewick Fire Department (KFD) crews were dispatched to 7322 W. Bonnie Ave. for reports of dark, black smoke coming out of a motorhome. Firefighters with Benton County Fire District #1 and Richland Fire also responded to assist Kennewick firefighters. The Kennewick Police Department (KPD) also responded to assist.

Callers reported to 9-1-1 that a child appeared to be “on top of the motor home,” which was later determined to be a child climbing out of a rear window of the motorhome, assisted by bystanders. KPD officers arrived on scene and confirmed with the child that escaped the fire that another child was still inside.

The first KFD crew arrived on scene within 5 minutes of being dispatched and received information from KPD officers on scene that there was a child still trapped inside the burning motorhome. Fire crews went into rescue mode, assembling firefighters and equipment to gain entry to the motorhome’s locked door and conduct a search. Crews used forcible entry tools, including a chain saw, to breach open the motorhome’s primary door and quickly found the missing child inside. Both children were rushed by ambulance to area hospitals in critical condition.

The fire was brought under control in approximately 26 minutes using fire hoses to extinguish the fire. The motorhome was a total loss. Fire investigators believe the cause is accidental, but the fire remains under investigation by both KFD and KPD.

Over 30 firefighters responded to the scene. One firefighter sustained minor injuries and was treated at a local hospital. There was no other damage to adjacent motorhomes.

The Kennewick Fire Department would like to remind recreational vehicles (RV) owners of the importance of maintaining working smoke alarms, staying on top of routine vehicle inspections and maintenance, and reducing the risk of cooking and heating fires in these moveable homes.

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