



KENNEWICK FIRE DEPARTMENT

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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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[Kennewick, WA] On Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 7:33 a.m., Kennewick Fire Department (KFD) crews were dispatched to Clover Island in Kennewick, WA for a reported boathouse fire. KFD responded to the incident, along with the assistance of firefighters from Benton County Fire District 1, the Pasco Fire Department, and the Kennewick Police Department (KPD).

While in route to the scene, the on-duty Kennewick Battalion Chief requested a response from the Pasco Fire Department fireboat.

The first due fire engine had a slightly delayed response due to a train preventing a direct response to the incident on Washington St., which required to the crew to use a nearby alternative route on Washington State Route 397.

KFD's ladder truck was the first on scene apparatus, arriving within 4 minutes of being dispatched. Upon arrival, crews discovered a well-involved boathouse fire that was threatening several nearby boathouses. Firefighters immediately began attaching fire hoses to a pre-plumbed standpipe system on the dock intended to be used for fires that occur in the marina. Unfortunately, firefighting efforts were hampered by water supply issues due to the freezing conditions. When the standpipe was determined to be frozen and inoperable, firefighters quickly moved to an alternative solution, working to place a trunk line (a 2 ½" hose line) down the dock that could be used to supply water to the fire attack hoses. Freezing conditions, however, prevented the nearest fire hydrant from being usable.

Winter weather created some additional challenges for Pasco Fire Department's (PFD's) boat crew as well. Initially, PFD firefighters were unable to pump water from the fireboat due to freezing conditions. Fortunately, within a matter of minutes, Pasco's boat crew rectified the problem and deposited water in locations that firefighters working from the dock were unable to reach.

Despite the challenges encountered, firefighters quickly recovered and developed alternative plans for water supply and fire attack. Efforts were focused on protecting nearby boathouses and extinguishing the fire.

Concern for the potential of a rapidly spreading fire prompted the Incident Commander to request additional fire engines from agencies across the region. Richland Fire & Emergency Services, the

Pasco Fire Department, and Benton County Fire District 1 all provided resources in response to this request.

Once the fire was determined to be reasonably contained, the Incident Commander shifted the incident focus to environmental protection by directing a spill containment boom to be placed on the water. Working in coordination with each other, the Port of Kennewick, the PFD fireboat, and the Benton County Sheriff's boat initially placed a containment boom until the Department of Ecology could arrive on scene to take over that portion of the operation.

Two boathouses were a complete loss from the fire. Two additional boathouses sustained minor exterior damage. It is estimated that somewhere between 50-150 gallons of boat fuel ended up on the water as a result of the fire.

There were no injuries to firefighters or civilians from the fire. A special thank you goes out to the Kennewick Police Department (KPD) for ensuring all of the boathouses were unoccupied before KFD crews arrived on scene, eliminating any concerns about occupants that may need to be rescued when fire crews arrived on scene. The KPD did locate two individuals in one of the nearby boathouses and ensured they self-evacuated.

Special recognition is also owed to the City of Kennewick (COK) Public Works Department. The sidewalks and docks used by firefighters to access the fire were extremely challenging to navigate due to snow and ice. The COK Public Works Department did an exceptional job of placing ice melt around the scene in order to help create a safer work environment for the emergency responders.

The Kennewick Fire Department remained on scene throughout the night to extinguish hot spots and fire flare-ups. The fire department will be working collaboratively with the other impacted stakeholders to address access challenges that are preventing the fire from being fully extinguished. Additionally, the Department of Ecology will continue to work closely with the Clover Island Yacht Club and the Port of Kennewick on environmental cleanup and the process of removing the destroyed boathouses.

The KFD would like to remind everyone to contact 911 immediately if there are signs of an active fire such as large volumes of visible smoke or fire.

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