



KENNEWICK FIRE DEPARTMENT

HONOR ♦ SELFLESSNESS ♦ COMPETENCE

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: January 14, 2023
Contact: Michael Heffner, Deputy Fire Chief
Phone: 509-528-8375
KFD#: 2300508

[Kennewick, WA] On Saturday, January 14, 2023, at 12:18p.m., fire crews from the Kennewick Fire Department (KFD), Benton Co. Fire District 1, and Pasco Fire Department were dispatched to a commercial structure fire in an apartment complex. Response partners Kennewick Police Department and Benton PUD also provided assistance with scene safety. Callers reported seeing black smoke coming from a second floor window in one of the apartment units.

The first KFD crew arrived on scene within 2 minutes of being dispatched. Crews entered the apartment unit of concern and encountered thick, black smoke banking down to the carpet on the second floor. Firefighters stretched hoselines to the second floor and extinguished the fire within 25 minutes of the first crew's arrival, containing the fire to the second floor. With concerns that the fire may have extended into the attic, crews pulled portions of the ceiling to ensure there was not any hidden fire in the attic or other void spaces.

Rapid notification to the fire department and a prompt response helped prevent the fire from spreading into adjacent apartment units.

The apartment unit was unoccupied at the time of the fire and no civilians or firefighters sustained any injuries from the fire. Because power was disconnected to the apartment complex, 15 persons will be temporarily displaced as a result of the fire. The KFD Chaplain is coordinating with the American Red Cross to assist with providing temporary shelter and meals to residents as needed.

The fire appeared to have started near an electrical outlet in the master bedroom. The specific cause of the fire was undetermined.

The KFD would like to remind the community to keep electrical outlets clear from excessive clutter to reduce fire risks. The same is true for appliances and accessories. Refrain from storing anything on top of or around potential fire hazards, and keep piles of papers or magazines away from electronics and outlets.

#####