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# KENNEWICK FIRE DEPARTMENT

## HONOR ♦ SELFLESSNESS ♦ COMPETENCE

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### MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: April 12, 2023  
Contact: Chad Michael, Fire Chief  
Phone: 509-820-0460  
KFD#: 2303656

[Kennewick, WA] On Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 12:09p.m., fire crews from the Kennewick Fire Department (KFD), Richland Fire & Emergency Services, the Pasco Fire Department, and Benton Co. Fire District 1 were dispatched to a commercial structure fire at 1328 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. in east Kennewick. The Kennewick Police Department and Benton PUD also provided response assistance during this incident.

Initial reports indicated a metal shop was on fire with occupants potentially still inside the building.

The first KFD crew arrived on scene within 5 minutes of being dispatched, and discovered a 40'x200' metal building, housing five different businesses, and a heavy amount of smoke coming from inside it. The crew immediately placed water on the fire through an opened exterior roll up door. When additional crews arrived on scene, direction was provided to search the building for occupants and place additional hose lines inside the building to assist with extinguishing the fire. The fire was out within 27 minutes of the first crew's arrival, containing the primary fire damage to just two businesses.

Sustained winds of approximately 20 mph made this a particularly challenging fire to fight. After the fire was under control, winds reignited some insulation and wood trusses, requiring crews to work even harder through the wind gusts and spend additional time ensuring all embers were completely extinguished.

Rapid notification to the fire department and a prompt response helped keep the fire contained to only a third of the building.

Although some businesses were occupied when the fire occurred, everyone made it out of the building safely. No civilians or firefighters sustained any injuries from the fire.

The specific cause of the fire is currently under investigation.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), 40% of small businesses do not reopen after a disaster such as a fire. To prevent this happening as much as possible, the KFD conducts inspections in commercial businesses located throughout the City of Kennewick to help identify and mitigate potential fire risks. KFD would like to encourage all business owners within the City of Kennewick to take appropriate steps to prevent fires from occurring in their businesses. If you would like assistance putting together an emergency plan for your business, you may contact the Kennewick Fire Department's Fire Prevention Division at (509) 585-4302.

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