



KENNEWICK FIRE DEPARTMENT

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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: Friday, August 4, 2023
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KFD#: 2308040

[Kennewick, WA] On Friday, August 4, 2023, at 2:11 a.m., fire crews from the Kennewick Fire Department (KFD) were dispatched to a reported commercial structure fire at 300 W. Kennewick Ave. The incident was initially reported to be a possible fire in one of the businesses on the south side of Kennewick Ave., but was quickly confirmed to be the Cascade Building, which had previously suffered significant damage by a fire in February 2022.

The first KFD unit arrived within six minutes of being dispatched and observed signs of smoke and fire on the second floor of the historic building. Crews quickly gained access to the second floor from an adjacent roof and were able to locate and extinguish the bulk of the fire. However, they discovered a large hole in the floor in the building's interior, likely created by a fire, which prevented firefighters from safely entering from that location. Because of the complexity of the fire and risks posed by a building undergoing a remodel due to a previous fire, a second alarm response was dispatched to the scene. Crews ultimately accessed the second-floor roof using aerial ladder trucks and cut holes in the roof to extinguish additional fire that appeared to have traveled up a pipe chase into newly installed insulation under the roofline. Fortunately, sheetrock on the second floor held the fire and limited overall damage.

The Kennewick Police Department, Benton Co. Fire District #1, Benton Co. Fire District #2, Franklin Co. Fire District #3, Richland Fire and Emergency Services, Pasco Fire Department, and the Benton Public Utility District also responded to assist with rendering the scene safe.

KFD's fire investigation team has wrapped up its investigation of the fire and determined it to be suspicious. At the time of the fire, the building was boarded up, under construction, and considered unoccupied. Upon arrival, crews identified an unsecure door and a portable ladder leading into the second floor in the area of the fire. It is not known whether the unsecured door is linked to the fire or how long the door was unsecure.

There were no injuries to any firefighters or any civilians.

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