



KENNEWICK FIRE DEPARTMENT

HONOR ♦ SELFLESSNESS ♦ COMPETENCE

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: Sunday, August 20, 2023
Contact: Michael Heffner, Deputy Fire Chief
Phone: 509-528-8375
KFD#: 2308681

[Kennewick, WA] On Sunday, August 20, 2023, at 1:51 p.m., fire crews from the Kennewick Fire Department (KFD) were dispatched to a reported residential structure fire at 10 S. Sharron St. Callers reported seeing flames erupting from the back of the house. This incident occurred just as KFD crews were wrapping up extinguishing a separate fire in brush and trees at W. 37th Ave and Ely St.

The first KFD unit arrived within five minutes of being dispatched and observed fire extending up from the backside of the structure and into the attic. Crews began applying water to the fire on the backside of the house while additional units arrive. Firefighters then entered the structure and began to pull ceiling to locate additional fire in the attic space. One unique aspect of this home's layout was a bedroom constructed in a portion of the attic, often referred to as a "half-story." A search of the entire home was conducted which confirmed there were no occupants inside of the structure.

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

KFD's fire investigation identified the area of origin as the back patio and determined that the cause of the fire was unintentional. There were no injuries to any firefighters or any civilians. A family member who recognized signs of a fire alerted the rest of the household and everyone safely evacuated. The fire leaves two adults and four children displaced from their home. The American Red Cross was requested to assist the residents with temporary housing and other assistance.

The KFD and the National Fire Protection Association want to remind everyone that fire can spread rapidly through your home, leaving you as little as one or two minutes to escape safely once the smoke alarm sounds. A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire. Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Pull together everyone in your household and make a plan. Walk through your home and inspect all possible exits and escape routes. Households with children should consider drawing a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors.

#####