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# KENNEWICK FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HONOR ♦ SELFLESSNESS ♦ COMPETENCE**

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## MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: September 1, 2023  
Contact: Chad Michael, Fire Chief  
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[Kennewick, WA] This week, a fire in at an apartment complex in the City of Kennewick was contained by an automatic sprinkler, limiting damage, preventing injuries, and assisting with keeping residents of the complex in their homes.

During the morning of Thursday, August 31, 2023, around 5:30 am, the Kennewick Fire Department was dispatched to a reported apartment complex fire. The unit the fire occurred in was occupied at the time of the fire. The occupants were alerted to the fire when they heard the fire alarm sounding, and safely exited their apartment before the KFD arrived.

This incident occurred at the newly constructed Ridgecrest Apartments, located at 2652 W. 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. The complex contains 56 two and three bedroom units, and is two stories tall. All of the apartment units in this complex were required to have residential sprinklers installed according to the International Fire Code.

A sprinkler located inside the unit in which the fire occurred activated and promptly extinguished the fire. The rapid activation of the sprinkler prevented the fire from spreading throughout the apartment of origin and into other adjoining apartment units.

This incident is an excellent example of the important role residential sprinklers play in both the protection of life and property.

According to the National Fire Protection Association's [U.S. Experience with Sprinklers report](#), **the home fire death rate was 90 percent lower when fire sprinklers and hardwired smoke alarms were present during fires**, and the average firefighter injury rate was 80 percent lower when fire sprinklers were present during fires. Learn more about fire prevention by contacting the Kennewick Fire Department at (509) 585-4230, or [justin.needs@ci.kennewick.wa.us](mailto:justin.needs@ci.kennewick.wa.us).

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