



KENNEWICK FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dedicated to providing excellent public service and ensuring the safety and well-being of our community and one another. We live, act, and serve our community with the utmost integrity.

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: January 1, 2022
Contact: Chad Michael, Fire Chief
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KFD# 2200033

[Kennewick, WA] On January 1, 2022, at 3:16pm, fire crews from the Kennewick Fire Department, Pasco Fire Department, Benton County Fire District #1, and Benton County Fire District #2 were dispatched to a residential fire at 4605 S. Ledbetter St. Dispatch reported a small shed or gazebo on fire in the backyard at this address. While crews were in route to the scene, dispatch provided updated information reporting the fire had extended into a home located nearby.

The first KFD crew arrived on scene within 9 minutes 45 seconds of being dispatched, and found visible flames coming from the back of the home. The initial arriving crew reported heavy fire on the first floor of the home, with fire that had extended into the attic space. Fire crews were able to place water on the fire from the exterior of the home in order to help keep the fire from spreading until sufficient crews arrived on scene to transition to attacking the fire from the inside of the house.

The fire was quickly brought under control within 15 minutes of fire crews arriving on scene. While crews were extinguishing the fire, a search of the home was conducted to look for any occupants that may not have been able to make it out of the home. Unfortunately, two dogs were found deceased.

Weather conditions made this a particularly challenging fire. The temperature at the time of dispatch was 17 degrees Fahrenheit. Cold weather conditions present a wide range of challenges for fighters including maintaining core body temperature and increased slip hazards when deploying equipment.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

The Kennewick Fire Department would like to remind everyone to use additional caution during extreme cold weather. Key considerations include:

- Being cautious with space heaters
- Practicing candle safety
- Ensuring chimneys are properly maintained
- Ensuring working smoke detectors are in place

The KFD wants to collaborate with our community to prevent unintentional fires.

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