



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: February 4, 2022
Contact: Chad Michael, Fire Chief
Phone: 509-820-0460
KFD# 2201204

[Kennewick, WA] On February 4, 2022, at 5:37a.m., firefighting crews from the Kennewick Fire Department (KFD), Pasco Fire Department, Benton County Fire District #1, and Richland Fire & Emergency Services were dispatched to a commercial structure fire at 3 N. Cascade St. Dispatch reported an apartment complex was on fire with possible occupants trapped in the building.

The first KFD crew arrived on scene in just over 4 minutes of being dispatched, and found heavy smoke coming from the second story of a two-story commercial building. Based on this information, a 2nd Alarm was requested which summoned additional firefighting crews from across the greater Tri-Cities area. The initial arriving crews entered the building to check for trapped occupants, but were quickly directed to withdraw from the building due to extreme and unsafe smoke and fire conditions. After withdrawing from the interior of the building, crews transitioned to exterior firefighting operations. This involved directing large volumes of water from two ladder trucks, carefully aiming water nozzles into the building from an elevated position above the building. Firefighting crews were also assigned to the interior of neighboring buildings in order to prevent the fire from spreading further down the block.

It took firefighting crews several hours to bring the fire under control due to the difficulty involved with accessing the seat of the fire. The building continued to be too unsafe to place firefighters inside during the entire duration of the fire. Fire crews were limited to spraying water on the fire from above the building. Other exterior firefighting crews were also limited in their ability to occupy locations near the building due to significant concerns about the structural integrity of the building and the risk of overhead power-lines. All crews were directed to remain outside of the collapse zone.

At approximately 8:00a.m., the fire was determined to be under control, and crews continued to extinguish small spot-fires that were present in the building using water streams from ladder trucks on scene. Given the cold weather conditions that were present, and the significant amount of time crews were engaged in firefighting operations, additional crews were used to provide initial arriving firefighting crews with a chance to rest before re-engaging in firefighting operations.

At the time the fire started, eight adults and two children occupied the apartments located on the second story of this building. Fortunately, all 10 occupants made it out of the building. One male occupant suffered significant injuries including burns and smoke inhalation. That occupant was transported from the scene in critical condition to a local hospital. Unconfirmed reports indicated that one of the occupants in the building alerted the other occupants of the need to flee from the building when the fire started.

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This fire significantly affected five small businesses located on the first floor of this building. Those businesses include:

- Neil Wilson Insurance Agency (1 N. Cascade St.)
- Squeaky Clean (5 N. Cascade St.)
- Ashiatsu Massage (300 W. Kennewick Ave.)
- The Social Club Salon (302 W. Kennewick Ave.)
- The Lady Bug Shoppe (304 W Kennewick Ave.)

Firefighting efforts prevented the fire from entering into two adjoining businesses. However, both business will be unable to open for several days due to utilities that had to be disconnected from the fire building. Those businesses include:

- Desert Gem (306 W. Kennewick Ave.)
- Foodies (308 W. Kennewick Ave.)

The KFD worked closely with Historic Downtown Kennewick and the American Red Cross to find temporary shelter for all the individuals that lived in apartments in this building. The KFD is also working closely with the owner of the building to get perimeter fencing around the building to prevent everyone from getting near the building until the structural integrity of the building can be further evaluated.

Additional, essential KFD response partners mobilized to the scene to assist with creating a safe scene for firefighting crews to operate, including Kennewick Police Department, Benton P.U.D., Cascade Natural Gas, and the City of Kennewick Public Works Department.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

The Kennewick Fire Department would like to remind everyone of the building to get out and stay out when a fire occurs. The KFD would also like to remind everyone to ensure working smoke alarms are in place.

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