



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: April 9, 2022
Contact: Chad Michael, Fire Chief
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KFD# 2203470

[Kennewick, WA] On Saturday, April 9 2022, at 3:15 p.m., fire crews from the Kennewick Fire Department, Richland Fire & Emergency Services, and Benton County Fire District #1 were dispatched to a fire involving arborvitaes next to a home. The dispatched location for this incident was 4514 W. Klamath Ave. While crews were still in route to this incident, dispatch provided updated information reporting the fire was threatening several homes.

The first KFD crew arrived on scene just under 5 minutes of being dispatched. Upon arrival at the scene, the crew observed 14' high arborvitaes on fire that were threatening two homes and a shop on three separate properties. Initial firefighting efforts were placed on extinguishing the arborvitaes and preventing the fire from spreading into the homes. Later arriving firefighting resources were directed to protect the shop and extinguish multiple vehicles that had caught on fire near the shop.

The fire was brought under control within 22 minutes after the first firefighting crew arrived on scene. A home located at 4514 W. Klamath Ave. and a home located at 4520 W. Klamath Ave. suffered exterior fire damage, but firefighting crews were able to keep the fire from spreading into either of the homes. Additionally, a shop located at 4503 W. Metaline Ave. suffered exterior fire damage, and several vehicles located on the same property were a complete loss.

The cause of the fire was ruled as unintentional. The occupants of one of the homes located on Klamath Ave. had been burning in a fire pit on their property earlier in the day and believed the fire was extinguished. Unextinguished embers from the fire pit caught the arborvitaes on fire and quickly spread to the neighboring structures.

One civilian suffered smoke inhalation while attempting to fight the fire before fire crews arrived on scene. That person was treated by KFD paramedics and released without transport. There were no injuries to firefighters.

Anyone considering burning should consult with the rules listed by the Benton Clean Air Agency before burning. The Kennewick Fire Department would like to remind everyone that fire pits should not be used on high wind days due to the risk of unintentional fire spread.

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