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# KENNEWICK FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HONOR ♦ SELFLESSNESS ♦ COMPETENCE**

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## MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: Monday, November 14, 2022

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KFD# 2211889

[Kennewick, WA] **UPDATE:** On Monday, November 14, 2022 at 11:08 a.m., Kennewick Fire Department (KFD) crews were dispatched to 7322 W. Bonnie Ave. for reports of dark, black smoke coming out of a motorhome. Several calls were made to 9-1-1, both from vehicles who detected the fire while driving along Hwy 240 and from neighboring residents inside the Tri-Cities RV Park. KFD responded to the incident, along with the assistance of firefighters from Benton County Fire District #1, Richland Fire and Rescue, and the Kennewick Police Department (KPD).

One of the callers reported to 9-1-1 that a child appeared to be “on top of the motor home,” which was later determined to be a child struggling to open and escape the fire through a rear window of the motorhome. That 14-year boy was assisted out of the window by bystanders, one of whom was the neighbor who called 9-1-1. Once outside, the boy shared that another child was still inside, an 8-year old girl. Bystanders attempted to enter the burning motorhome through the same window, but were forced back by the unbreathable, acrid black smoke. KPD officers arrived on scene and tried to open the door in an effort to find the missing girl, but discovered that it was securely locked and unable to be opened from the outside.

The first KFD crew arrived on scene within 5 minutes of being dispatched and received information from KPD officers on scene that there was a girl still trapped inside the burning motorhome. Fire crews went into rescue mode, assembling firefighters and equipment to gain entry to the motorhome’s locked door and conduct a search. Crews quickly found the missing girl inside.

Firefighters and paramedics rushed both children by ambulance to area hospitals in critical condition. Sadly, the 8-year old girl later died from her injuries. The 14-year old boy is listed in stable condition at a trauma hospital in Seattle after being airlifted from the Tri-Cities.

The fire was brought under control in approximately 26 minutes using fire hoses to extinguish the fire. The motorhome was a total loss. Fire investigators from both KFD and KPD have determined that the cause of the fire was accidental and started in the front portion of the motorhome, but the fire remains under investigation.

Over 30 firefighters responded to the scene. One firefighter sustained minor injuries during firefighting operations and was treated at a local hospital. One KPD officer sustained minor injuries attempting to unlock the door into the motorhome. There was no damage to adjacent motorhomes.

Kennewick firefighters, police officers, and 9-1-1 dispatchers are all mourning the loss of a valued member of our community and have been in contact with the children's parents. Many public safety professionals are mothers and fathers and cannot imagine the unbearable pain of losing a child. We are hoping and praying for the recovery of the 14-year old boy.

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