



KENNEWICK FIRE DEPARTMENT

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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: April 1, 2023
Contact: Chad Michael, Fire Chief
Phone: 509-820-0460
KFD#: 2303283

[Kennewick, WA] On Friday, March 31, 2023, at 3:10p.m., fire crews from the Kennewick Fire Department (KFD), Richland Fire & Emergency Services, and Benton Co. Fire District 1 were dispatched to a commercial structure fire in an apartment complex. The address of this incident was 6825 W. Kennewick Ave. Response partners including the Kennewick Police Department and Benton PUD also provided assistance during this incident.

Initial Callers reported a fire in the backyard at this address. Additional information provided before fire crews arrived on scene indicated that a fence located in close proximity to an apartment complex was on fire.

The first KFD crew arrived on scene just over 4 minutes of being dispatched, and discovered fire outside the building and inside one of the apartment units. The crew immediately placed water on the fire from the exterior of the building to darken down the fire. After extinguishing the fire outside, firefighters stretched hoselines into the interior of several apartments to check for fire extension, and conducted a search for anyone that may still be inside. The fire was extinguished within 20 minutes of the first crew's arrival, containing the primary fire damage to two units. With concerns that the fire may have extended into the attic, crews pulled portions of the ceiling to ensure there was not any hidden fire in the attic or other void spaces.

Rapid notification to the fire department and a prompt response helped prevent the fire from spreading into adjacent apartment units.

A few of the apartment units were occupied when the fire occurred, but the occupants were able to self-evacuate before firefighters arrived on scene. No civilians or firefighters sustained any injuries from the fire. Because power was disconnected to the apartment complex, 15 persons will be temporarily displaced as a result of the fire. The American Red Cross is working with each of the occupants to provide temporary shelter and meals to residents as needed.

The specific cause of the fire is currently under investigation.

The KFD would like to remind the community to dial 911 any time there is a threat to life or property, including fires, smoke, odors of gas or medical emergencies. It is important to call 911 immediately to help prevent the situation from getting worse. Any delay in dispatching emergency responders can result in the additional loss of life or property during time critical incidents such as building fires.

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