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# KENNEWICK FIRE DEPARTMENT

## HONOR ♦ SELFLESSNESS ♦ COMPETENCE

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### MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: September 23, 2023  
Contact: Chad Michael, Fire Chief  
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KFD#: 2309875

[Kennewick, WA] On Friday, September 22, 2023, a fire in at the Toyota Center in the City of Kennewick was contained by an automatic sprinkler, limiting damage, preventing injuries, and permitting the facility to reopen shortly after the incident occurred.

At 3:53 pm, the Kennewick Fire Department was dispatched to a reported commercial building fire at the Toyota Center, a multi-purpose arena, located at 7000 W. Grandridge Blvd. Information provided by the dispatch center while crews were responding indicated the fire was in one of the heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) units located in the basement of this facility. Dispatch also informed responding crews that all of the occupants had evacuated the building.

A sprinkler located inside the basement where the fire occurred activated and promptly extinguished the fire. The rapid activation of the sprinkler confined the fire to the HVAC unit where the fire started. This prevented the fire from spreading into other locations within the building.

After KFD personal arrived on scene and determined the fire had been extinguished, crews were directed to shut down the sprinkler system in order to minimize water damage inside of the building. While this was occurring, maintenance employees for the facility called to request service for the sprinkler head that activated so the fire suppression system in the building could be turned back on. KFD personnel also assisted with isolating the electrical service to the impacted HVAC unit.

This incident is an excellent example of the important role residential sprinklers play in both the protection of life and property.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, "From 2015 to 2019, sprinklers operated in 92 percent of fires large enough to activate sprinklers and were effective at controlling the fire in 96 percent of the incidents in which they operated." Learn more about fire prevention by contacting the Kennewick Fire Department at (509) 585-4230, or [dustin.needs@ci.kennewick.wa.us](mailto:dustin.needs@ci.kennewick.wa.us).

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