



NEWS RELEASE

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TDD: 837-7016

FIREFIGHTERS ASSIST IN RESCUING 3 FROM BURNING APARTMENT TWO APARTMENTS DAMAGED, 5 PEOPLE DISPLACED

Dispatch Time -12:02 A.M.
On-Scene Time - 12:06 A.M.
Under Control -12:22 A.M.

Three people were rescued from a burning apartment through a window in the 3400 block of South Pantano after a fire broke out shortly after midnight, displacing a total of five people. At least a half dozen phone calls were made to 9-1-1 reporting the fire, including one from the affected apartment with screams of help being heard over the phone. A resident was awakened by smoke and quickly realized his apartment was on fire. He could hear his brother, a paraplegic, screaming for help from another bedroom. The resident was able to get to his brother and carry him back to his bedroom. At that point firefighters arrived on scene and were able to assist a total of three people out of the window. Once the rescue was completed, hose lines were taken into the apartment to begin extinguishing the fire. Adjacent apartments were being evacuated simultaneously by other firefighters on scene. The fire did spread to a neighboring apartment due to heavy fire involvement in the back patio area. Two residents, their two dogs, and a cat were displaced from that apartment. The ladder crew on scene cut three holes in the roof to assist in increasing visibility and reducing temperatures inside the apartments. The ladder crew also controlled the electric and gas utilities for safety purposes. The three rescued residents were assessed on scene by paramedics and one of the three was transported to the hospital for precautionary reasons due to smoke inhalation. A total of two units were condemned by City of Tucson Building Safety with 5 people requiring assistance from Red Cross. Eight units and twenty-one firefighters controlled the fire sixteen minutes after arriving on scene. There were no injuries to firefighters. The cause and origin of the fire are currently under investigation but there was heavy fire damage in the back patio area of both apartments.

Origin – Under investigation
Cause – Under investigation
Damages Estimate -Yet to be determined

Safety Message: More than half of residential fire deaths occur in fires that start between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. The resident stated there were no batteries in the smoke alarm, rendering it



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useless. Having a working smoke alarm can provide earlier notification of a fire, which can be the difference between getting out safely or suffering from injury or worse. Check your smoke alarms monthly and replace the batteries annually. The resident stated that the situation "was nothing like the movies".

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