

CHARLESTON

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Multiple Agencies Respond to Charles Street Fire

Contact: Community Educator Ryan Kunitzer

Phone: 843-958-6401

E-mail: kunitzerr@charleston-sc.gov

Charleston, SC (December 16, 2015): On December 15, 2015, units with the Charleston Fire Department, Saint Andrews Fire Department, Charleston Police Department, and Charleston County EMS were dispatched at 7:47 AM to 7 Charles Street for the report of a residential structure fire. Fire personnel arrived on scene at 7:48 AM and reported heavy smoke venting from a two story multi-family structure.

Initial on scene fire personnel began an interior attack on the fire and encountered heavy fire throughout two rooms of the fire apartment. Two fire personnel fell into an indoor pool located near an entry door but were able to self-extricate and continue firefighting operations. Fire impacted the electrical service into the building and created an imminent hazard to firefighters who had to withdraw from the interior until the electrical services could be isolated.

While personnel made an interior attack on the fire, additional crews protected nearby exposures that were threatened by the fire. Due to rapidly deteriorating conditions, emergency personnel were evacuated from the building and switched to a defensive operation. Additional resources were requested from Saint Andrews Fire Department, James Island Fire Department, and North Charleston Fire Department.

"CFD units arrived to find a well-developed and rapidly advancing fire in a challenging location. The quick, well-coordinated effort of the crews confined the fire to the structure of origin," said Deputy Chief of Operations John Tippett. "The firefighting efforts were seamlessly accomplished through the automatic aid agreement we have with St. Andrews, North Charleston, James Island and St. John's Fire Departments. Charleston County EMS provided medical standby."

The fire was declared under control at 9:39 AM. Failure of the roof structure made the extinguishment effort more difficult which required fire personnel to continue extinguishment throughout the day. Four occupants of the multi-unit structure were able to escape without injury. One firefighter suffered a minor burn injury to their wrist. The firefighter was evaluated and returned to duty.

The Charleston Fire Department Fire Marshal Division responded to investigate the fire. The cause of the fire is still under investigation at this time.

###