

CHARLESTON

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Duplex Fire Quickly Extinguished

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Charleston, SC (October 3, 2013): The City of Charleston Fire Department, St. Andrews Fire Department, Charleston County EMS, and the Charleston Police Department responded to a reported residential structure fire at 105 Line Street on 10/3/2013. Both fire agencies were dispatched at 12:23 AM as part of the automatic aide agreement. The first fire department unit arrived on scene at 12:26 AM and reported smoke and flames at the rear of the two story duplex.

Arriving fire department personnel commenced a rapid fire attack on the second floor unit and controlled the bulk of fire by 12:30 AM, within 4 minutes of arrival. Fire damage was primarily contained to the second floor rear porch, with moderate fire damaged extending into the kitchen, of the second floor unit. The first floor unit suffered water damage during the fire suppression operations. The residents of the second floor unit were home at the time of the incident and escaped without injury. The first floor residents were not home at the time of the fire.

Members of the Charleston Fire Department Fire Marshal Division responded to investigate the fire. The fire was determined to have originated on the second floor rear porch. Investigators noted discarded smoking materials on the porch. The occupants utilized an ashtray in the area and the contents of the ashtray were routinely discarded into a trashcan that was located near the fire's origin. The specific cause of the fire was not determined, however, the cause is believed to be related to discarded smoking materials. The apartment was equipped with smoke alarms but none of the alarms were functional at the time of the incident.

The Charleston Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to remind citizens of the following:

- Always maintain working smoke alarms in your home –this will improve the safety of the residents and it may provide notification to neighbors or adjacent residents in your absence.
- Always discard smoking materials in non-combustible receptacles.
- Allow smoking material to thoroughly cool or wet the remaining material before discarding into a combustible receptacle such as a trash can.
- Create and practice a home escape plan that includes a designated meeting place for all family members when they leave the home.
- Once you have escaped a burning building never re-enter for any reason.

Please contact the Charleston Fire Department for additional advice or information.

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