

CHARLESTON

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Fire Sprinkler System Stops Apartment Fire

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Charleston, SC (December 8th^h, 2013): On December 8th, 2013, at approximately 12:28 AM, members of the Charleston and St. Andrews Fire Departments, along with Charleston County EMS, responded to a reported structure fire at the Sabal Palms Apartments, 100 Lochaven Drive. Fire personnel arrived on scene to find the fire sprinkler system had activated and controlled a fire in the kitchen area of an apartment. Fire personnel proceeded to check the area for any fire extension and then controlled the water from the open fire sprinkler head.

“The fire sprinkler system is a critical component in the life safety system of this property,” said Fire Marshal Mike Julazadeh. “In this case, a single fire sprinkler head operated and controlled the fire event until the fire department could arrive and mitigate any remaining hazards. Without the fire sprinkler system we would have had a substantial event, damaged multiple apartments, and displaced numerous families. Instead, management is working to repair the minimal water, smoke and fire damage.”

Fire damaged was confined to the kitchen area of one apartment. Two other apartments suffered some smoke and water damage. Red Cross is assisting with displaced residents of the three apartments. The Charleston Fire Department Fire Marshal Division responded to investigate the fire and determined that unattended cooking contributed to the cause of the fire.

The Charleston Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to offer a few simple safety tips:

- 1) Never leave cooking unattended.
- 2) Never use salt, flour, sugar or similar materials to extinguish a cooking fire. Baking soda is an acceptable substitute but the most appropriate device is a kitchen fire extinguisher.
- 3) Install and maintain smoke alarms in all homes. Every level of your home should have a working smoke alarm.
- 4) Every family (regardless of where you live) should create and practice a home escape plan that includes a designated meeting place for all family members when they leave the home.
- 5) Once you have escaped a burning building never re-enter for any reason.

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