

# CHARLESTON

## FIRE DEPARTMENT



### Anson Restaurant Structure Fire

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Charleston, SC (December 27, 2013): On December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013, the Charleston Fire Department, St. Andrews Fire Department, Charleston County EMS and Charleston Police Department, were alerted to a possible commercial structure fire at 12 Anson Street. Units were dispatched at 12:04 PM and the first CFD unit arrived on scene at 12:06 PM.

Employees of the restaurant were preparing food for Christmas Eve dinner to be held that night. A chef with the restaurant reported fire near the grill area and extending up the wall into the kitchen exhaust hood. The employee alerted several other employees working inside the structure of the fire and attempted to extinguish the fire with a fire extinguisher. The employee activated the hood suppression system before exiting the structure. An initial 911 caller in a nearby parking lot saw flames coming from the roof of the structure.

First arriving CFD personnel initiated an interior attack on the fire and extinguished the remaining fire in the kitchen area. The fire moved upwards in the vent and out of the vent opening on the roof. The fire damaged a second floor office area. Smoke and heat from the fire primarily damaged the second floor. Fire and smoke damaged the first floor kitchen area of the building.

Members of the Charleston Fire Department Fire Marshal Division initiated an origin and cause investigation. Based on employee information and observed damage by the fire investigators, the fire was determined to have originated on the grill area during cooking operations and subsequently spread to combustible materials in the structure. Investigators are continuing to work with building management and their insurance investigators to complete the investigation.

The Charleston Fire Department would like to remind citizens of these tips in case of a fire:

- Dial 9-1-1 as soon as possible if there is a fire.
- Alert other occupants of the structure that there is a fire and to exit the building.
- Become familiar with how your fire extinguisher operates and be familiar with what type of fire the extinguisher is designed to extinguish. Remember, fire extinguishers are made for smaller fires.
- If you are attempting to use an extinguisher, keep your means of egress behind you and only attempt to extinguish the fire if it is safe to do so.

For more safety tips, please email Community Educator Ryan Kunitzer at [kunitzerr@charleston-sc.gov](mailto:kunitzerr@charleston-sc.gov) or call at 843-958-6401.

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