

# CHARLESTON

FIRE DEPARTMENT



## CFD Responds to Structure Fire on Sumter Street

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Charleston, SC (February 21, 2014): On 02/20/2014 at 9:45 PM, units with the City of Charleston Fire Department, North Charleston Fire Department, City of Charleston Police and Charleston County EMS were dispatched for a reported residential structure fire on Sumter Street located in the Westside neighborhood of Charleston. First fire department units arrived on scene at 9:47 PM and reported fire venting from the second floor windows and extending upwards into the eaves of the two story single family structure.

Two occupants of the structure were alerted to the fire when they heard a loud noise coming from the second floor. One of the occupants exited into the front yard and noticed fire venting from second floor windows. The occupant alerted the other occupant of the structure and they exited the structure uninjured. A nearby neighbor reported the fire to 9-1-1.

Fire personnel initially attacked the fire from the exterior of the structure. Fire crews were able to suppress the remaining fire with a coordinated interior attack. Fire personnel were able to contain the fire to a second floor bedroom of the residence. Smoke and heat damaged the remainder of the second floor. A neighboring residence received minor exposure damage from the fire.

The Charleston Fire Department Fire Marshal Division responded to investigate the fire. The fire originated inside the second floor bedroom that was not occupied at the time of the fire. The cause of the fire is still under investigation. Investigators did not locate any working smoke alarms in the residence which lead to the delay in the detection of the fire. Red Cross was notified to assist the displaced residents.

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

- 1) Always maintain working smoke alarms in your home – this will improve safety of occupants in a structure by alerting them to a possible fire.
- 2) Every level of a home should have a working smoke alarm. Smoke alarms should be installed inside and outside of each sleeping area.
- 3) Test smoke alarms monthly. Batteries should be changed on a yearly basis.
- 4) Remember to always dial 9-1-1 in the event of an unwanted fire.

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

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