

# CHARLESTON

FIRE DEPARTMENT



## Fire Damages Ashley Hall Center in West Ashley

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Charleston, SC (February 24, 2014): Units with the Charleston Fire Department, St. Andrews Fire Department, Charleston Police, and Charleston County EMS responded to the 1600 block of Ashley Hall Road at 2:47 PM on February 23, 2014 for a reported commercial structure fire. First fire department units arrived on scene at 2:50 PM and reported smoke coming from the roof area of the 8 unit commercial structure.

The Ballroom Dance Club, a tenant of the complex, was hosting an event with approximately 50 people inside the building when someone came out of the Ashley Hall Laundromat located several units down and alerted people in the parking lot that there was a fire inside the building. People located in the Ballroom Dance Club were able to exit the structure unharmed.

Arriving fire department personnel confirmed the fire was located within the Laundromat tenant of the commercial structure. Fire personnel entered the building to initiate extinguishment. Fire crews evacuated the building due to fire penetrating the roof and moved to a defensive (exterior) operation. Fire personnel were able to prevent fire spread to adjacent units. Fire crews checked each unit for fire extension and ventilated remaining smoke. Due to the extent of fire involvement a second alarm was requested bringing additional units from the North Charleston Fire Department.

The fire was brought under control in approximately one hour. Ashley Hall Road, between Sam Rittenberg and Orange Grove Road, was closed for approximately 4 hours while fire crews worked at the scene.

Members of the Charleston Fire Department Fire Marshal Division responded to investigate the fire. Fire investigators were able to determine the fire originated near a commercial dryer towards the rear of the structure. The specific cause of the fire is still under investigation at this time.

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