

# CHARLESTON

## FIRE DEPARTMENT



### **Gordon Street Fire Displaces Residents**

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Charleston, SC (March 24, 2014): The Charleston and North Charleston Fire Departments, Charleston Police Department, and Charleston County EMS responded to Gordon Street for a reported residential structure fire on March 23, 2014, at 11:24 PM. The initial arriving fire department units arrived on scene at 11:29 PM and reported fire venting from the front of the two-story residential home.

“Fire personnel initiated a coordinated fire attack that prevented the fire from spreading to the adjacent homes,” said Deputy Fire Chief John Tippett. “Crews worked quickly to contain and extinguish the blaze.” The family room of the residence sustained heavy fire damage with smoke and heat damage noted throughout the residence. Two occupants and a friend were home at the time of the fire and were able to escape uninjured.

Members of the Charleston Fire Department Fire Marshal Division responded to investigate the fire. The fire was determined to have originated near the fireplace in the family room of the residence. The occupants of the home reported placing yard waste materials into the fireplace and used an ignitable liquid to assist with igniting the fire. A working smoke alarm was present in the home. The exact cause and sequence of events leading up to the fire are still under investigation at this time.

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

- Never use ignitable liquids to start a fire.
- Never burn cardboard boxes, trash, or yard debris in your fireplace or wood stove.
- Use only seasoned hardwood. Soft, moist wood accelerates creosote buildup.
- Never leave a fireplace unattended. Extinguish the fire before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and inside and outside of sleeping areas. Test them monthly and change the batteries at least once a year.

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

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