

CHARLESTON

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Residential Fire Alarm Alerts Firefighters to Structure Fire

Contact: Community Educator Ryan Kunitzer

Phone: 843-958-6401

E-mail: kunitzerr@charleston-sc.gov

Charleston, SC (April 10, 2014): The City of Charleston Fire Department was dispatched at 12:24 PM today for a residential fire alarm on Maverick Street, located on Charleston's peninsula. Fire crews arrived on scene at 12:30 PM and reported smoke showing from the rear of a residential duplex property. Additional units were requested and responded from the City of Charleston Fire Department, North Charleston Fire Department, City of Charleston Police Department, and Charleston County EMS.

Fire personnel located and extinguished a small fire, located on the second floor porch of the duplex, within five minutes of their arrival. The fire damage was contained to the second floor porch.

The Fire Marshal Division responded to investigate the fire. Residents reported using a charcoal grill the previous day on the porch and then placed the charcoal briquettes into a paper bag. Investigators determined the charcoal briquettes ignited the paper bag causing the fire on the porch.

The residential fire alarm system played a vital role in the early detection of this fire. The activated smoke detectors alerted the alarm monitoring company providing early notification to the Charleston County Consolidated Dispatch Center. Without this system, the fire may have continued to burn unnoticed causing significant damage to the property and belongings.

The Charleston Fire Department would like to remind citizens:

- Install and maintain smoke alarms in your home. Consider installing a monitored smoke detection system.
- Grills should be placed and used well away from the home, porches, decks, and combustible materials.
- Never leave your grill unattended.
- Keep children and pets away from the grilling area.
- When using a charcoal grill, let the coals completely cool before disposing or replacing the grill cover.
- When disposing of used charcoal briquettes place them in a metal container and allow them to cool. Briquettes may remain hot for several days after use.

For additional safety tips and information on residential fire alarm systems, please contact Community Educator Ryan Kunitzer at (843)958-6401 or by email at kunitzerr@charleston-sc.gov

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