

# CHARLESTON

## FIRE DEPARTMENT



### Fire Damages Apartments on Beaufain Street

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Charleston, SC (May 11, 2014): At approximately 3:35 AM today emergency personnel with the City of Charleston, St. Andrews, James Island, and North Charleston Fire Departments, Charleston Police Department, and Charleston County EMS were dispatched to a reported structure fire at 124 Beaufain Street. The first fire department units arrived on scene in approximately 4 minutes of dispatch and encountered a rapidly advancing fire in a large, historic, three-story home that had been converted to multiple apartments. Firefighters quickly entered the building and initiated an interior search of the building and attack on the fire. The fire had already progressed into the void spaces and spread between all three floors. Due to rapidly deteriorating conditions, emergency personnel were evacuated from the building and switched to a defensive operation. The roof of the structure subsequently collapsed along with a section of the North side of the building.

“First arriving crews quickly evaluated the situation and employed an action plan based on Standard Operating Procedures and initiated an interior fire attack” said Deputy Chief of Operations John Tippet. “As the conditions within the building deteriorated, good judgment and training prevailed, and crews safely evacuated the structure without injury.”

The failure of the roof structure has made the extinguishment effort more difficult as the collapsed roof has created concealed pockets of fire that had to be extinguished throughout the day today. Fire crews will remain on scene through tomorrow morning conducting a fire watch.

“Fire personnel worked quickly to contain the fire to the primary building and evacuated two adjacent apartments,” said Fire Marshal Mike Julazadeh. “The rapid response and coordinated actions of the fire department contained the damage to one building. At this time, fire investigators are suspending the onsite investigation due to structural and safety concerns.” Members of the Fire Marshal Division will work with Building Inspection Division and owner’s representatives to review the stability of the building before proceeding with the onsite investigation.

Twelve citizens were displaced from the main apartment building as a result of the fire. One resident sustained minor burns to his face and was transported by Charleston County EMS.

Members of the community with pictures or video of the incident are encouraged to share the images with the Charleston Fire Department in order to assist with the investigation. Photos and videos may be sent to [cfd@charleston-sc.gov](mailto:cfd@charleston-sc.gov).

Community members are encouraged to plan, prepare, and practice a home escape plan to ensure you know what to do in case of a fire.

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