

CHARLESTON

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Fire Sprinkler Controls Canterbury House Apartment Fire

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Charleston, SC (November 22, 2014): The Charleston Fire Department was dispatched on 11/22/2014 at 3:42 AM to an automatic fire alarm at 165 Market Street, the Canterbury House. Fire department personnel arrived on scene at the Canterbury East building and observed smoke in a 4th floor hallway. The call was upgraded to a possible structure fire, immediately dispatching additional resources from the Charleston, St. Andrews, and James Island Fire Departments, in addition to units from Charleston County EMS and the Charleston Police Department.

Fire department personnel entered an apartment on the 4th floor, assisted the resident to safety, and completed extinguishment of a couch fire with a water fire extinguisher. The couch fire was contained by the activation of single fire sprinkler head in the living room. Fire personnel proceeded to check the area for any fire extension, controlled the water from the open sprinkler head, and removed smoke from the building while ensuring the safety the remaining building occupants.



“This is yet another example of the profound benefits of a fire sprinkler system,” said Fire Chief Karen Brack. “Fire sprinkler systems consistently prove their value in improving the life safety of residents and emergency responders while limiting property damage.”

“Without the fire sprinkler system we would have had a substantial event, damaged multiple apartments, and displaced numerous residents,” said Fire Marshal Mike Julazadeh. “The fire sprinkler system, coupled with the fire alarm, was part of the life safety system of this building and provided early warning and fire control.”

The Charleston Fire Department Fire Marshal Division responded to investigate the fire. The specific cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Damage from the fire was limited to the sofa in the apartment. Management is working to repair water damage and restore minimal smoke and fire damage. One occupant was relocated to another apartment and no injuries were reported.

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