

CHARLESTON

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Fire Damages Apartment in West Ashley

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Charleston, SC (May 2, 2015): At 9:30 AM units from the City of Charleston and Saint Andrews Fire Departments, Charleston County EMS, and the Charleston Police Department responded to a possible structure fire at Magnolia Downs Apartments located on Wappoo Road. The first fire department unit arrived at 9:33 AM and encountered fire and smoke conditions on the second floor of the multi-unit apartment complex.

Fire personnel initiated a coordinated interior attack and were able to extinguish a fire in a second floor bedroom. Occupants of the apartment began to smell smoke earlier in the morning and investigated the cause but could not locate the source. Several minutes later the occupants of the home continued to smell smoke and discovered a fire in a second floor bedroom. Smoke alarms located outside of the bedroom activated when the fire was discovered. The four tenants of the apartment exited the apartment and dialed 9-1-1.

Fire and smoke damage was contained to the two story townhome apartment. Adjoining units suffered some small amounts of water damage. The American Red Cross was notified and is working to assist the 5 occupants who lived in the apartment. One firefighter was transported and released from a local hospital with an ankle injury.

Members of the City of Charleston Fire Department Fire Marshal Division responded to investigate the cause of the fire. The cause of the fire is still under investigation at this time.

The Charleston Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to offer a few simple safety tips:

- 1) If you smell smoke or fire and you are unsure of the source, please do not hesitate to dial 9-1-1 so emergency responders can investigate.
- 2) Install and maintain smoke alarms in all homes. Smoke alarms should be located on every level of your home and inside, and outside, of each bedroom.
- 3) Develop a home escape plan – whether you live in a house or apartment – and identify two means of egress.
- 4) If you live above the first floor, consider purchasing a home escape ladder.

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