

Serving the Cities of Kent, SeaTac, Covington, and King County Fire District 37

Professionally and Compassionately Helping People

Three Injured in Suspected Arson Fire

Kent, Wash. - January 28, 2016- Three people, including the occupant of the apartment where the fire started, were injured today after smoke and flames were reported at an apartment complex in the 24800 block of 45 Ave. S. at 8:00 am this morning.

The other two injuries were to men who successfully rescued the resident. All three suffered non-life threatening smoke inhalation injuries. After being evaluated by King County paramedics, all three were sent to local hospitals by private ambulances.

The resident of the apartment where the fire started will be taken into custody once he is released from the hospital as a person of interest in what is suspected to be an intentionally set fire.

The apartment building had a total of 12 units and no one else was injured in the fire.

The Kent Regional Fire Authority and surrounding departments found heavy smoke and flames coming from a third floor apartment when the first units arrived. A second alarm was requested to add additional units to the call. A quick fire attack limited the fire to the apartment it originated in, though several suffered smoke damage. A fire wall, which is a partition built into the attic space to segment it, did its job and kept flames and smoke from traveling unchecked through that area.

Second or additional alarms are common to ensure that there are sufficient resources on scene to meet all the fire ground needs and to have enough firefighters to rotate them in and out of the fire during a large incident. The number one cause of firefighter deaths on the fire ground is heart attacks. Rotating crews and allowing them to rehab on a regular basis (which includes checking of vitals) helps reduce the chance of a tragedy.

The fire is under investigation and more information will be published as it becomes available.

###