



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Commercial Fire

Kent, Wash – December 1, 2017 – What started as a sprinkler water flow alarm (SWFA) at 7:00 pm, turned into a commercial fire in the 20100 block of 72 Ave. S.

A SWFA typically indicates that a sprinkler head has activated or that a bump in the pressure within the system caused it to send an alarm even though the sprinkler heads have not activated. This type of alarm has a single fire unit respond to it because of the frequency of false alarms.

When firefighters got on scene they discovered that the entire warehouse and office spaces of the building were filled with smoke. The engine company quickly upgraded the alarm to a full “commercial structure fire” to add additional units.

The fire appears to have originated where a forklift’s battery was being charged. The SWFA was set off when the heat from the fire activated the sprinkler head directly above it, exactly as it was designed to do. The movement of water through the pipes sent a signal to the alarm monitoring company, which called the local 911.

The activated sprinkler head controlled the fire and kept it from spreading, giving firefighters the time needed to access the inside of the building with fire hoses to fully extinguish it.

Because of the size and height of the concrete tilt-up style building, firefighters are using large fans to clear out the smoke. A fire investigator will go in once that is accomplished to confirm the cause of the fire.

No one was in the building at the time of the fire and there were no injuries.

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