



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kent East Hill Senior Apartment Fire

Kent, Wash – March 13, 2018–

Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority units were dispatched to check on a smoke alarm on the 26400 block of 104 Ave SE, Kent. Since it was a large senior living complex, the call was upgraded to a commercial fire response. The first Chief officer on scene saw smoke while approaching and quickly upgraded the call to a “working” fire. The upgrading triggered additional help and notified all those in route that a confirmed fire was found.

A staff member called 911 after being alerted by a resident that there was a fire on the exterior of a ground floor apartment. Other staff members attempted to subdue the fire with several fire extinguishers that were on site. A manual fire alarm pull-station was triggered to warn the entire complex and evacuation of the building immediately proceeded. Several residents with mobility issues took shelter in a safe place until building staff or fire fighters were able to assist them.

Although damage from the fire can be seen on the exterior wall stretching from the ground level past the third floor to the roof, fire did not make it very far into the structure. This is a sprinklered building, including the balconies, but no sprinkler heads were activated since the fire was mostly contained to the outside. The fire was extinguished completely within 30 minutes of the first dispatch. Not long after, the residents (all but one unit) were allowed back into their apartments.

One resident has been displaced by the fire but fortunately there was temporary housing available on site. There were no reported injuries or medical issues for either residents, staff members or fire personnel. Renton Regional Fire Authority, Valley Regional Fire Authority, King County Medic One, Zone 3 Rehab, Kent Police Department, and utilities were on site assisting Puget Sound Fire.

The Puget Sound Fire Investigator was not able to determine a cause. At the time of this release, there was no damage estimate available.

Whether living in a house or a large apartment complex, please do not disregard alarms sounding off. Smoke and CO2 alarms may sound like a nuisance, but properly maintained, they could save your life. If in an apartment or hotel, never assume the fire alarm is just a drill. Follow the evacuation protocols of your complex and wait until notified that there is no longer any threat of danger.

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