

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 24, 2014



**Contact:**

Diana L. Klink  
757.514.4104  
757.359.1845

Tim Kelley  
757.514.4103  
757.871.3039

**UPDATE**

SUFFOLK, Virginia (August 24, 2014) The Fire Marshal's office has advised that following their investigation the cause of this morning's fatal fire has been ruled accidental.

**UPDATE**

SUFFOLK, Virginia (August 24, 2014) Please note there was a typographical error in the earlier release. The correct time units arrived on scene was 3:39 a.m., not 3:49 a.m. as was initially stated.

**FATAL STRUCTURE FIRE**

SUFFOLK, Virginia (August 24, 2014) Suffolk Fire & Rescue responded earlier this morning to a residential structure fire in the 200 block of North Division Street in downtown Suffolk. The fire was upgraded to a two-alarm blaze with a possible entrapment.

Emergency Communications received the call at 3:35 a.m. and units were on scene at 3:49 a.m. Upon arrival of firefighters they found heavy fire at the rear of

the house and heard several small explosions from a gas grill propane tank and motor bike.

A ladder crew set-up an aerial attack at the rear of the house and crews entered the first floor where they encountered heavy fire but found no occupants. Crews then made their way to the second floor where they also found heavy fire and located the male victim in the upstairs bedroom. He has been identified as Joseph Booth, age 47. He lived alone at the residence.

A second home in the 200 block of North Division Street also received major damage due to the intensity of the flames and two adults that resided there have been displaced. They are being assisted by family members.

Engines 1, 2 and 3, Ladders 3 and 6, Rescue 1, Medics 1 and 3, Battalion 1, Cars 1 and 3 and the Fire Marshal's Office responded.

Suffolk Police assisted with traffic control earlier this morning and detectives are now conducting an investigation along with the Fire Marshal's Office.

The cause of the fire is undetermined at this time.

###