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FIREFIGHTERS RESPOND TO TWO ALARM FIRE
IN DOWNTOWN SUFFOLK

SUFFOLK, Virginia - Suffolk Fire & Rescue crews responded this evening to a two alarm residential structure fire in the 200 block of Clay Street in downtown Suffolk.

Emergency Communications received the call at 6:38 p.m., with the first units responding just seconds later to the two-story residence a short distance from Fire Station 1.

No one was at home when the fire was initially discovered.

Battalion Chief William Kessinger advised that upon arrival crews found heavy flames on the second floor and also extending from the attic area. Crews began attacking the fire from the interior, but due to a smoke explosion in the attic they had to re-set and began an exterior attack using their newest apparatus, Ladder 3, before then going back inside the structure.

The occupants of the neighboring residences on both sides of the structure were evacuated due to their proximity to the fire.

Responding units included Battalions 1 and 2, Engines 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 10, Ladders 3, 5 and 6, Rescue 1, EMS 1, Medics 3A and 6A, the Fire Marshal, as well as Engine 29 from the Chuckatuck Volunteer Fire Department. The Nansemond-Suffolk Volunteer Rescue Squad provided Rehab assistance at the scene. The Carrsville Volunteer Fire Department, Carrollton Volunteer Fire Department, as well as the Chesapeake Fire Department backfilled stations to cover for the regular response of units during the incident.

The Suffolk Police Department provided traffic control at the scene and Cay Street as well as West Finney Avenue was closed in both directions.

The fire was called under control at 8:19 p.m. There were no injuries. One adult was displaced as a result of the fire and will be assisted by the American Red Cross.

The Fire Marshal's Office will handle the investigation as to the cause of the fire.

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