

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE _____

May 29, 2017



Contact:

Diana L. Klink
757.514.4104
757.359.1845

Tim Kelley
757.514.4103
757.871.3039

UPDATE

SUFFOLK, VA (May 29, 2017) The Suffolk Fire Marshal's Office advises that following their initial investigation Tyson Maurice Watkins, age 25, of Suffolk, Virginia was arrested and charged with Arson of an Occupied Building. Watkins is being held at Western Tidewater Regional Jail with no bond. Additional charges may be filed. Watkins was living at the residence prior to the fire.

The Hampton Fire Marshal's Office assisted with the investigation with their accelerant K9.

The investigation is ongoing. No additional information is available.

UPDATE

SUFFOLK, VA (May 29, 2017) The two additional adult residents are safe and accounted for. The roadway reopened at approximately 2:30 a.m.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation. No additional information is available at this time.

SUFFOLK FIRE & RESCUE RESPOND TO RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE FIRE

SUFFOLK, VA (May 29, 2017) Suffolk Fire & Rescue responded to a residential structure fire in the 1300 block of East Washington Street this evening. Emergency Dispatchers were notified of the incident at 11:18 p.m.

Suffolk Police arrived at the scene at 11:20 p.m. and found a person on the roof of the home. Fire & Rescue Battalion Chief William Kessinger noted the first fire unit arrived on the scene at 11:21 p.m. and found heavy fire coming from both the first and second floor of the two story structure.

The fire was marked under control at 12:04 a.m. An adult male resident was taken off the roof of the home by Ladder 3 and, following emergency medical assessment and treatment by Suffolk Fire & Rescue personnel, was transported to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital via Nightingale with what is considered to be life threatening injuries. Two additional adult residents are unaccounted for at this time.

Engine 3, Ladder 3, Medic 3A, Engine 2, Rescue 1, Battalion 1, Engine 1, EMS 1, Medic 1A, Engine 4, Ladder 6, Engine 6, Engine 10, Battalion 2, Ladder 5, Nansemond-Suffolk Volunteer Rescue Squad Car 302 and Fire Marshal 4 responded to the incident.

East Washington Street between North 4th Street and North 6th Street is currently closed due to the incident.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

###