

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE _____

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FIRE TEMPORARILY DISPLACES 12

SUFFOLK, VA (March 11, 2015) Suffolk Fire & Rescue responded earlier this evening to a fire at a home for special needs adults located in the 400 block of Finney Avenue in the Olde Towne neighborhood in downtown Suffolk.

Emergency Communications received the call at 7:53 p.m. from the alarm company and the first units arrived at 7:58 p.m. Upon arrival firefighters found heavy smoke on the second floor of the 2-story residence due to a fire that was contained to the dryer on that level. The home is operated by the Western Tidewater Community Services Board and was occupied by 12 residents in addition to staff, and all had safely evacuated the premises prior to the arrival of firefighters. Suffolk Fire & Rescue personnel provided medical assessment and two staff members were ground transported to Sentara Obici Hospital for treatment for smoke inhalation. No firefighters were injured.

The occupants will be temporarily displaced overnight. Management transported all of the displaced individuals by bus to a local hotel where they will be assisted and monitored by staff.

The dryer fire was extinguished by firefighters and damage was limited to the laundry area. The fire was called under control at 9:06 p.m. Crews ventilated the entire building and occupants are expected to return tomorrow.

Battalion 1, Engines 1, 2 and 3, Ladder 3, Rescue 1, Medic 1 and EMS 1 responded to the scene.

Suffolk Police provided traffic control and security and the roadway was briefly closed.

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