

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE _____

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TWO ALARM BLAZE IN DOWNTOWN SUFFOLK

SUFFOLK, VA (April 2, 2015) Suffolk Fire & Rescue responded to the scene of a two alarm duplex fire in downtown Suffolk late this afternoon.

Emergency Communications received the call at 4:42 p.m. and the first units arrived on scene at 4:44 p.m. Upon arrival firefighters found heavy smoke and flames showing from the second floor rear porch of the two-story residence located in the 100 block of Clay Street. The frame structure was converted into two duplex units. All of the occupants had vacated the premises prior to the arrival of firefighters.

Neighboring residences were evacuated as a precautionary measure due to the proximity of homes in the area and the extent of the fire. The fire was contained to the residence and no other homes were damaged. Two families, including two adults and four children, have been displaced as a result of the fire and are being assisted by the American Red Cross.

One firefighter sustained non-life threatening injuries and was ground transported to Sentara Obici Hospital for treatment.

Due to the closeness of other residences in the area and the extent of the fire, the response was upgraded to two alarms and Engines 1, 2, 3 and 4, Ladders 5 and 6, Medics 1A, 6A, and 9A, Rescue 1 and 6, EMS 1, Battalions 1 and 2, Rehab 6 and the Fire Marshal's Office responded. Numerous volunteers backfilled responding stations, including the Carrsville Volunteer Fire Department, Carrollton Volunteer Fire Department and the Portsmouth Fire

Department. The Nansemond Suffolk Volunteer Rescue Squad, Driver Volunteer Fire Department, Chuckatuck Volunteer Fire Department, Whaleyville Volunteer Fire Department and Holland Volunteer Fire Department also provided assistance.

Suffolk Police provided traffic control and security and a portion of Market Street, as well as the intersections of Clay Street and Market Street, Saratoga Street at Market Street, Clay Street at Finney Avenue, Pine Street at Finney Avenue, and Chestnut Street at Market Street remained closed throughout the incident.

The fire was called under control at 7:17 p.m.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

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