

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE _____

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FIREFIGHTERS RESPOND TO RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE FIRE

SUFFOLK, VA (February 7, 2015) Suffolk Fire & Rescue responded earlier this evening to a residential structure fire in the 300 block of Lummis Road in the rural Holland borough.

Emergency Communications received the call at 8:43 p.m. and the first units arrived at 8:53 p.m. Upon arrival firefighters found smoke showing from the attic area of the single story residence. The occupants had evacuated prior to the arrival of firefighters. The fire was called under control at 9:12 p.m. There were no injuries.

The family of two adults has been displaced and are being assisted by the American Red Cross.

Battalion 1, Engines 1, 4 and 7, Rescue-1, Medic 7, and Tanker 1 responded to the scene, as well as Tanker 7 from the Holland Volunteer Fire Department.

The Fire Marshal's office is investigating.

This is the first major structure fire since the Suffolk Fire & Rescue Department kicked off their *Fire Safety Blitz Program* in late January. The objective of the program is to educate a community on fire safety immediately after a fire occurs. Within 24 hours of a fire, Suffolk Fire & Rescue personnel will return to the affected neighborhood and go door to door to promote fire safety in a two block radius out from the structure that suffered the fire. The

hope is that the *Fire Safety Blitz Program* will prevent the next fire from occurring in that community by bringing fresh information and resources to the area. Residents will be notified of the recent fire and provided fire prevention materials. Those materials will include a yard stick to help signify the need for a three foot clearance around heating items, a door hanger if residents are not at home at the time of the visit, and a two-sided postcard with helpful fire safety tips and contact information for City of Suffolk public safety offices.

Additionally, free smoke detectors will be available and installed on the spot if needed. The goal of Suffolk Fire & Rescue is to ensure that every home in the City has working smoke detectors. During the door to door visits residents will be asked if they have a working device or if their current detector is over ten years old. Suffolk Fire & Rescue personnel will be available to properly install a working smoke detector or replace an aging one.

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