

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## FIRE AT MERIDIAN OBICI APARTMENTS

SUFFOLK, Virginia (May 2, 2018) Suffolk Fire & Rescue responded late Tuesday evening, May 1, 2018, to a residential structure fire at the Meridian Obici Apartments. Emergency Communications was made aware of the fire at the four-story apartment complex in the 6000 block of Meridian Obici Way at 11:31 p.m. and the first unit arrived on scene at 11:35 p.m.

Battalion Chief Demetri Wilson advised that upon arrival smoke was showing from the rear of one of the apartment buildings. The fire was found to have been started on the outside patio of a second floor apartment with some extension to the interior walls of the apartment of origin, as well as the downstairs unit directly below it.

The occupants of the apartment had evacuated prior to the arrival of firefighters. The entire 12-unit building was briefly evacuated as a precautionary measure, including 32 individuals. Two adults were displaced in the apartment of origin, as well as two persons in the downstairs apartment. They are being assisted by apartment management.

The fire was called under control at 11:58 p.m. There were no injuries.

The Fire Marshal advised the cause of the fire was ruled accidental due to carelessly discarded smoking materials.

Responding units included Engines 1, 2, 4 and 6, Ladders 3 and 6, Rescue 1, Battalion 1, EMS-1, Safety 1 and the Fire Marshal.

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