



GREAT FALLS FIRE RESCUE PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: January, 1, 2026

HOUSE FIRE STARTED BY FIREWORKS ON NEW YEAR'S EVE

Great Falls, MT – From 7 pm on New Year's Eve to 9 am on New Year's Day, Great Falls Fire Rescue (GFFR) responded to 11 calls for service. 8 of those calls were EMS calls; there was 1 disturbance, 1 motor vehicle accident, and 1 house fire caused by fireworks.

GFFR was dispatched for a house fire at 717 7th Ave S at 8:40 pm. 911 dispatch reported that flames and smoke were showing from the roof of the house. Engine 1 arrived on the scene and found a small fire on the roof of the house. Engine 1 was able to quickly extinguish the fire on the roof of the house. The fire caused minor damage to the house, leaving a small hole in the roof, which GFFR patched for the occupants.

There were two occupants in the home at the time of the fire. Great Falls Emergency Services assessed both occupants, who refused transport to the hospital. During the investigation into the cause of the fire, a neighbor informed the on-duty Battalion Chief that they could see fire on the roof. The neighbor then went to the house, alerted the occupants, and called 911. It was reported that before the fire, fireworks were seen in the air east of the house. The occupants of the house informed the Battalion Chief that they had set some fireworks off earlier, as had their neighbors.

The cause of the fire was determined to be fireworks coming in contact with cedar shake shingles. There were no injuries, and the occupants were not displaced. It is unknown if citations were issued for the use of illegal fireworks.

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