

Missoula Fire Department

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Informational Release - For Immediate Broadcast

To: All Media Outlets

From: Jeff Kroll, Battalion Chief
Missoula Fire Department

Re: Structure Fire Parkside Apartments

Date: 12/30/2022

Location: Parkside Apartments, 3602 Stephens Ave.

Time of call: 23:10

Number of Firefighters:

Fatalities/Injuries: One individual, smoke inhalation

Property Damage: approximately \$15,000

Property Saved: estimated several million

Additional Information:

On December 30th at 11:10 pm the Missoula Fire Department responded to the Parkside Apartments for the report of smoke and flames coming from an apartment on the 2nd floor.

A full structure response was dispatched consisting of 3 Fire Engines, 1 Rescue Ladder Truck, 1 Command Unit and 1 ambulance.

The first Fire Engine arrived on the scene to find heavy smoke coming from the 2nd floor balcony area. Missoula Police Department was on the scene prior to MFD arrival and assisted with evacuating residents from the building.

The first in engine crew used a single fire attack line and went interior to the apartment on fire. They were able to knock the fire down and complete a victim search without incident. A secondary search was completed by the rescue/truck company, which found the occupants cat, that was alive and well hiding in a back room.

One resident, from an adjacent apartment suffered from smoke inhalation. They were treated by the medic unit on scene.

The cause of the fire was determined to be an unattended candle.

SAFETY MESSAGE*

Keep lit candles at least 12 inches from anything combustible. Don't use lit candles in bedrooms, bathrooms and sleeping areas. Blow them out when you leave a room or home, or when you go to bed. Never leave a candle unattended.