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Row Home Fire Displaces 16 In Richmond

September 19, 2013

Virginia - Sixteen people were left homeless by three fires across the metro Richmond area, but nobody was seriously hurt. The most significant injuries involved a resident of a row house in the Church Hill neighborhood of Richmond's East End that burned Tuesday night. Richmond Fire Marshal David Creasy said the man, a resident of a second-floor apartment, was taken to VCU Medical Center for minor burns and smoke inhalation.

Five residents of a first-floor apartment were also displaced by the blaze, which was reported at 10:18 p.m. and appeared to originate on the second floor of a two-story brick structure in the 600 block of Chimborazo Boulevard.

Despite significant fire and smoke damage to the home, firefighters were able to prevent the flames from spreading to the houses on either side of the structure.

The fire was brought under control in about an hour, and the Greater Richmond Chapter of the American Red Cross was called to provide emergency housing assistance for the displaced residents.

The cause of the fire was under investigation Wednesday.

Nine people were displaced by a fire that damaged a Chesterfield County house Wednesday morning.

The only person home at the time of the fire was treated on the scene for smoke inhalation but refused further medical attention, Chesterfield Fire & EMS Lt. Jason Elmore said.

The fire was reported shortly after 9:30 a.m. in the 4700 block of Sherman Road, a short distance southwest of Chippenham Parkway's Belmont Road interchange, and the first crews on the scene found smoke and fire coming from the rear of the single-family house.

Elmore said crews confined the fire to the kitchen, but there was smoke damage throughout the structure.

The cause of the fire was under investigation.

The Red Cross helped four children and five adults displaced by the fire.

One person was displaced by a two-alarm fire that damaged an apartment near Richmond International Airport shortly before dawn Wednesday.

The lone occupant of the apartment had gotten safely outside by the time the first firefighters arrived at the Gerwin Manor apartments in the 5300 block of Lewis Road after the 4:43 a.m. call, Henrico fire Lt. James Mellon said.

A second alarm was declared in large part because of concerns of the fire possibly spreading in the 16-unit, two-story brick complex. The fire, contained to one unit, was declared under control at 5:39 a.m.

The Red Cross was called to assist the displaced resident, and Mellon said Gerwin Manor operators were looking into moving the displaced resident to another unit at the complex.

Written by Richmond Times-Dispatch

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