



News

Office of the Fire Chief Timothy M. Butler

645 Randolph Avenue, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

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WEEKLY SAINT PAUL FIRE & EMS BLOTTER

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For Immediate Release

This feature we call "Fire & EMS Blotter" is a weekly update of the activities of the Saint Paul Fire Department. During the week of March 2nd through March 8th, the Saint Paul Fire Department responded to 801 calls for service. Here is a **sampling** of some of the emergency and non-emergency activities from information provided by the fire department.

CARDIAC ARREST – Saint Paul Firefighter/Paramedics and EMTs were called to the West 7th neighborhood on March 3rd at 2:20 a.m. for a 51 year old male in cardiac arrest. The man was found unresponsive in an elevator by a bystander who began CPR until Firefighters/EMTs and took over resuscitative efforts and transported the male to an area hospital.

HOUSE FIRE DUE TO CARELESS SMOKING – On March 3rd at 11:26 am, Saint Paul Firefighters were called to a report of a dwelling fire on the 1100 block of Fairmount Avenue. Firefighters arrived to find smoke visible from the exterior of the house, and after extinguishing the fire, it appeared the fire started on the Southeast corner of the home. The homeowner admitted to placing a cigarette butt on the exterior window ledge in this area of the home. The cause of the fire was ruled to be unintentional due to improper disposal of smoking materials. Damages are estimated at \$137,342. ***Dispose of cigarette butts in a wide, deep metal or glass container and wet down before placing in garbage can.***



MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH – Saint Paul Firefighter/Paramedics and EMTs responded to the area of Jefferson Avenue and West 7th Street on March 3rd at 3:52 pm, where two motor vehicles had crashed. They treated and transported a three year old male who was in a child passenger seat at the time of the crash and suffered a facial injury.

FATAL APARTMENT FIRE – Saint Paul Firefighters were called to the 300 block of Cottage Avenue West on March 3rd at 12:27 pm for a report of smoke in an apartment. Firefighters arrived to find a small fire that had extinguished itself due to lack of oxygen. There was smoke and heat damage throughout the apartment. The woman who lived there was found dead on the floor. The fire started by a candle left unattended while she fell asleep. It is believed she woke up after smoke filled the apartment and was only able to take a few steps before being overcome by the toxic smoke. There were no working smoke alarms in the apartment but at least one smoke alarm that had been disabled. Damages are estimated at \$78,566. ***Smoke alarms save lives – make sure you test yours monthly, replace batteries annually (unless you have a 10 year battery) and replace the entire alarm every 10 years. Also, always blow out candles when you leave the room or to go sleep. This is Saint Paul's first fire fatality of the year.***



This rather small fire consumed most of the oxygen in the apartment and enough toxic smoke to kill the resident. The hardwired smoke alarm on the right had been disabled.

GARAGE FIRE – On March 4th at 7:47 pm, Saint Paul Firefighters responded to the 1500 block of Pacific Street for a report of a detached garage on fire. They arrived to find a fire burning inside the south wall and a work bench inside the garage. Investigators were unable to determine whether the cause of the fire was electrical wiring or smoking materials. Damages are estimated at \$8,000.



DOG BITE – On March 6th at 4:40 pm, Saint Paul Firefighter/Paramedics and EMTs responded to the 300 block of Griggs Street for a 45 year old female who was bitten by a dog. She was treated for her injuries and declined transportation to the hospital.

VEHICLE AND HOUSE FIRE – Saint Paul Firefighters responded to the 1700 block of Hoyt Avenue East on March 7th at 1:10 am after a vehicle crashed into a house, causing both to start on fire. The vehicle damaged the gas meter when it hit the house, causing the fire to rapidly spread inside the house. The driver of the vehicle fled the scene but was later found by police and taken to an area hospital. Damages are estimated at \$260,500.



MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH – Saint Paul Firefighter/Paramedics and EMTs were called on March 7th at 4:19 am to the area of West University Avenue and Prior Avenue for a motor vehicle crash. A vehicle rear-ended a street sweeper. The driver of the street sweeper removed the driver of the other vehicle, believing the vehicle to be on fire. The driver of the street sweeper, a 36 year old male, was treated and transported to an area hospital for back pain. The 41 year old male driver of the other vehicle was not wearing his seatbelt and sustained facial trauma. He was treated and transported to an area hospital for further treatment.

GARAGE FIRE – ELECTRICAL – On March 7th at 9:13 am, Saint Paul Firefighters responded to a report of a detached garage on fire on the 1000 block of Bush Avenue. Firefighters arrived to find smoke coming from the garage. The investigation revealed the fire started in the cockloft area of the garage. The garage did not have code-compliant electrical systems as all appliances in the garage were powered by a single outlet and multiple extension cords and power strips all via an extension cord running from the basement of the home to the garage. The cause of the fire was an electrical arc. Damages are estimated at \$21,025. ***Make sure all electrical work is code-compliant. Extension cords are designed for temporary use only. Any appliance that produces heat or uses a large amount of electricity should be plugged directly into an outlet, not an extension cord or power strip.***



DWELLING FIRE – Saint Paul Firefighters responded to a report of a dwelling fire on the 600 block of Minnehaha Avenue East on March 8th at 12:48 pm. Firefighters arrived to find a fire on the exterior of the rear of a house. Bystanders initially found a queen sized mattress at the rear of the home on fire and attempted to extinguish it, but were unsuccessful in doing so before the fire grew. The 8 year old grandson of the occupant was seen watching the fire, but denied setting the fire. Cigarette butts and a lighter were found in the area, but the occupant denied being a smoker. The cause of the fire is undetermined, possibly due to youth fire play. Damages are estimated at \$5,250. ***Store matches and lighters out of reach of children. If you know a child who has played with fire, please contact Saint Paul Fire Department's Youth Fire Play Intervention team at 651-228-6203 so we can provide resources and education to help stop this dangerous behavior.***



UNATTENDED COOKING FIRE – On March 8th at 2:50 pm, Saint Paul Firefighters were called to the 700 block of Frank Street for a report of smoke coming from the lower unit of a duplex. Firefighters arrived to find no one home, but a pot burning on the stove top. The landlord contacted the occupant and learned she had been making tea and forgot the stove was on when she left home. Damages are estimated at \$120. ***Careless, unattended cooking is the leading cause of building fires, and they're all preventable. "STAY AND LOOK WHEN YOU COOK!"***

