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El Paso Fire Department

Jan. 3, 2015

Press Release

Contact: Public Information Officer, Carlos A. Briano at (915) 820-9712

Firefighters respond to Condition 2 fire at 2317 Lake Omega St.

El Paso, Texas – At approximately 6:47 p.m. on Friday Jan. 2, the El Paso Fire Department was dispatched to a condition 2 fire at 2317 Lake Omega St. when the neighbors saw smoke and called 911. Upon arriving on the scene at 6:54 a.m., crews found heavy black smoke coming from the attic eaves of the house. There were two occupants in the house, but one was out walking and the other self-evacuated.

Firefighters were able to bring the fire under control at 7:14 p.m. and contain it to the attic space. There was some smoke damage to the house. The cause of the fire was a faulty fireplace. There were no injuries to residents or fire personnel. A total of 10 units and 25 personnel from the El Paso Fire Department responded to this incident. El Paso Police, Texas Gas Service and El Paso Electric assisted in the incident.

Although the family was able to self-evacuate, the smoke alarms were not working at the time of the fire. The El Paso Fire Department would like to remind the public that almost two-thirds of home fire deaths result from fires in homes with missing or non-working smoke alarms. When there is a fire, poisonous smoke spreads quickly and you need valuable seconds to get out. Remember the following tips:

1. **Test your detector** – You should test every detector in your house once a month. All units should have an easily-accessible test button.
2. **Check your batteries** – You should check your batteries every six months and change them every year. A good rule of thumb is to check the batteries when you turn your clocks forward or backwards in the fall and spring. Remember, if the smoke detector is chirping, it is warning you that the battery is losing power.
3. **Don't ignore false alarms** – If your unit seems to have more than its share of unfounded false alarms, replace the smoke detector.
4. **Keep your detectors clean** – At least once a year, vacuum, or blow out any dust that might accumulate inside the unit and in the slats on the outside cover.
5. **Never borrow a battery** – Never borrow a battery from an alarm to use somewhere else. You might forget to replace it, or the battery might get worn down faster from the other appliance.
6. **Never paint a smoke detector** – Painting a unit can block the vents in the cover, preventing smoke from getting to the sensors.
7. **Replace your smoke detectors** – Replace your smoke detectors every 5 - 10 years, depending on the manufacture's recommendations.

Samuel Peña, Fire Chief

416 N. Stanton, 2nd Floor | El Paso, Texas 79901 | PH (915) 485-5600

www.elpasotexas.gov/fire



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