March 29, 2020  
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Fire Displaces Family - Assisted by PFA’s Customer Assistance Response Team

A family was displaced by a fire in their east Fort Collins home Sunday evening. Thankfully, there were no injuries, and residents self-evacuated. PFA was dispatched to a house fire at 9:57 p.m. after reports of hearing “crackling and electrical popping”. The Engine 10 crew was the first on scene and saw smoke and fire coming from the roof.

A firefighter quickly performed a 360, which is a quick assessment of the scene, and created a plan of attack. Firefighters used a traditional hose attack as well as a specialized ‘fognail’ nozzle to extinguish the blaze. The fire was under control by about 10:33 p.m. Crews remained on scene to continue mop up and to ventilate the home.

Fire investigators determined that the cause of the fire was accidental and related to a gas fireplace, but the exact cause of the failure was undetermined. The fire appears to have started in the home’s attic and caused approximately $80,000 in damages to the property and contents.

Due to smoke and fire damage, the family could not return to the home that night. PFA’s Customer Assistance Response Team, or CART, was dispatched to assist them. CART members help people that are displaced by fires. They can find temporary lodging, start insurance claims, answer questions, and more. They provide guidance and help those affected feel informed and able to navigate through a difficult time.

During this unprecedented time, fire prevention and home safety is extra important since so many are spending more time at home, including school-age children.

Three EASY Things to Make Your Home Safer TONIGHT:

1. Close a Door. Closing a door can help control a fire, contain smoke and reduce heat. Even standard bedroom doors can delay a fire by 20 minutes. Closing bedroom and room doors before you go to sleep and before you leave town can buy firefighters precious minutes as they attack a fire and potentially save areas of your home.

2. Push a Button. Take a moment to test your smoke alarm. Smoke alarms make three loud beeps if they are warning you of smoke. The make single chirp sounds if the battery is low

3. Open a Window. Windows get painted shut, stuck as temperatures and pressures change, or could be broken all together. Test the bedroom windows in your home today. It’s a beautiful day any way.

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