July 29, 2020

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Firefighters Save Home from “Outside In” Fire

Yesterday at 12:13 p.m. PFA was dispatched to a house fire on the 500 block of Galaxy Crt. The Engine 5 crew was the first on scene and could see dark smoke rising from behind the house as they approached. Occupants self-evacuated and were assessed by the UHealth ambulance on site. They were released without injury. Firefighters helped one dog from the home who was also uninjured.

Upon arrival, firefighters performed a 360 to assess the scene then pulled a hose through the front door to stop the fire from extending into the home. Firefighters also attacked the fire from outside at the area of origin which was an attached deck behind the house. The heat from the fire broke a window, but firefighters were able to knock down the flames before they could spread into the room beyond. The fire was primarily contained to the storage area above an attached garage, the deck, and the wall between the garage and the home.

Firefighters stayed on scene to perform extensive overhaul. Since the storage space was in use, there were many hot spots and potential areas where the fire could reignite. Firefighters worked to open the space and carefully removed as many items as possible. This helps preserve both property and resources. The temperature yesterday afternoon was around 91 degrees, but inside the storage space it was closer to 150 degrees even after the flames were out and the space had been vented. Firefighters worked rotations clearing the area and extinguishing hot spots.

PFA requested a restoration company to help stabilize the structure and the PFA Customer Assistance Response Team (CART) was dispatched. CART members serve as a liaison to people that experience house fires or other traumatic incidents. CART members work with the fire investigator and safety officer to help keep the occupant and/or homeowner informed and safe. When possible, a CART member may walk them through the home and answer questions. They also ensure they have a place to stay that night and access to other resources. For example, families may be connected to the Red Cross if they need medications replaced or clothes. “It can be one of the hardest days of their life,” said the CART member on scene. “We’re there to make sure they have someone to help them understand the process.”

The cause of the fire is under investigation. It is estimated that about 15 percent of the structure was involved in the fire. The last unit cleared the scene at 3:08 p.m.

See photos from the incident at https://poudrefireauthority.smugmug.com/House-Fire-on-500-Block-of-Galaxy-Crt/

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