



Fire Department

City of Columbia, Tennessee
1000 South Garden Street
Columbia, Tennessee 38401



Steven E. Cross
Interim Fire Chief

931.560.1700
scross@columbiatn.com

Columbia, Tennessee—Fire Sprinkler Activations Save Property and Reduce Risks to Firefighters and Occupants

On May 23, 2010 fire sprinkler systems are credited with potentially saving a large amount of property and reducing the risk of injury or death to Columbia residents and firefighters.

At approximately 0846 hours firefighters were alerted to a fire alarm activation indicating water flow at a multi-story apartment complex. Fire companies arrived on-scene and reported a slight amount of smoke visible in the apartment. Firefighters assessed the situation to find there had been a cook stove fire extinguished by the fire sprinkler system. Fire service professionals know the potential this incident held for our firefighters and the occupants of the apartment building. In this incident where the facility was equipped with a fire sprinkler system no occupants and/or firefighters were injured or killed due to this incident and there was only minor property damage associated with the fire or sprinkler activation.



Later the same day, on May 23, 2010 at approximately 1914 hours, firefighters were alerted to a fire alarm activation indicating water flow at a doctors' professional center in Columbia. Fire companies arrived on-scene and reported nothing showing. Upon further investigation it was found that the fire sprinkler system had activated in the riser room but there was no evidence of a fire.



Initially, it was thought that this may have been a malfunctioning fire sprinkler system but it was determined that a heater had gotten the ceiling temperature in the riser room to a high enough level to activate the fire sprinkler. No fire was found but the alarm activation as a result of the fire sprinkler may have averted a structure fire in

the facility later in the night. This incident was terminated with no occupants and/or firefighters being injured or killed and minor property damage.

In conclusion, Interim Fire Chief Steve Cross credits these fire sprinkler systems with reducing the risk of injury and/or death to our firefighters and the public with these incidents. The Columbia Fire Department primarily exists to save life and protect property. Since neither of these incidents became working structure fires, we feel our city reaped some secondary benefits from the fire sprinkler system activations. Our environment, there was no negative environmental impact associated with these incidents like the smoke that would have been released by or the water run-off associated with large fire suppression operations necessary to extinguish such fires. Proactive fire prevention and suppression activities were very successful in helping our department meet this primary mission.



Honor

Duty

Trust

Integrity