



For Immediate Release

Contact: Peter Donovan
(360) 630-6246
peterd@mountvernonwa.gov

Steve Riggs, Fire Marshal
steverd@mountvernonwa.gov

April 9, 2019

MOUNT VERNON-- At 1:24 AM, the Mount Vernon Fire Department was dispatched to a shed fire at a residence on the 800 block of Garfield Street.

Fire crews arrived at the scene to find a detached shed heavily involved in fire. Fire personnel were able to make contact with the home owner, and confirmed that no one was inside, except the family dog and 3 cats.

The incident commander quickly called for a second alarm and fire crews from Burlington Fire Department and Skagit County Fire District #2 responded to assist Mount Vernon Fire with the blaze. Within approximately 40 minutes of the initial alarm, fire crews extinguished the fire that was threatening other storage buildings, as well as two RVs. Crews were able to force open the door of the burning unit, and discovered a dog that was eager to exit the building. The crews were able to rescue the dog and had it sent to a local animal clinic and evaluated for injuries. Unfortunately three cats perished in the fire.

It was determined that the building was being utilized as living space. The occupant was not home at the time of the fire. The 500 square foot building and its contents will most likely be a total loss, estimated at \$25,000, as a result of the fire and smoke damage. The fire displaced one person who is currently being assisted by the Red Cross. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

MV Fire Marshal Steve Riggs issued a general reminder for community members to plug all electrical items and high energy-drawing appliances into an approved building outlet; as extension cords can easily be overloaded, causing a short.

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