



For Immediate Release

Contact: Bryan Harris
Assistant Chief Operations
(360) 336-6277
bryanh@mountvernonwa.gov

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MOUNT VERNON— A recent fire at the President Apartments in Downtown Mount Vernon resulted in the death of a 74-year-old male resident.

On Saturday August 12th at 7:47 a.m., Mount Vernon firefighting crews responded to a call for a structure fire located at 310 Myrtle Street.

Upon receiving the emergency call, Mount Vernon Fire Department crews were on-site by 7:51 AM. The first responders encountered smoke emanating from a single apartment on the building's second floor. The fire crews entered the premises and found the apartment filled with heavy smoke and high heat levels.

Firefighter efforts led to the rapid extinguishment of the fire. During the search and rescue operation, an unconscious resident was located within the apartment. Firefighters quickly extricated the victim and initiated advanced life support measures. Regrettably, despite these efforts, the 74-year-old occupant succumbed to injuries that he had sustained during the fire incident.

Additional fire crews from Sedro-Woolley and Skagit County Fire District #2 aided in evacuating occupants and carrying out the overhaul of the affected unit. Several occupants from the second and third floors were safely evacuated by firefighters, using ladders.

The origin of the fire was isolated to the room of occurrence. An initial investigation by the Mount Vernon Fire Department indicated the incident to be accidental, yet the exact cause remains undetermined due to the presence of multiple potential ignition sources.

Considering this unfortunate event, the Mount Vernon Fire Department urges residents to exercise caution when using candles or burning incense. Leaving such items unattended or active while sleeping can result in smoldering fires, which even in their early stages, can produce hazardous levels of toxins. Additionally, it is essential to ensure that smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are in proper working condition, serving as effective alerts to potential dangers.

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