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News Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: PIO Mike Page
Date: 04-09-08
Address: 1820 North 15th
Alarm Type: Structure Fire
Time Dispatched: 12:40 AM
Time on Scene: 12:44 AM
Clear Time: 1:49 AM

The Grand Junction Fire Department responded to a report of a chimney fire at 1820 North 15th with 3 fire trucks, an ambulance, a Battalion Chief and a total of 15 Personnel. E-12 was first unit on scene found fire in the chimney area and an unused wood stove and was able to put the fire out in the chimney and the stove. A new wood stove had been put into service in front of the old stove and piping was installed into the chimney area. The old stove was encased in a masonry area. The inside wall was flagstone and covered the entire wall of the room inside. The outside wall was cinder block and encased the old stove and formed the chimney. E-12 checked the wall with a thermal imager and thought that the fire was out.

At 4:13 AM the units we dispatched to the same location when the owner thought he could hear fire in the wall. When E-12 arrived they found small amounts of fire in the roof area near the chimney structure.

THE GRAND JUNCTION FIRE DEPARTMENT CANNOT RELEASE, TRANSFER, PROVIDE ACCESS TO, OR REVEAL ANY PERSONAL HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED WITH THE ABOVE INCIDENT DUE TO OUR LEGAL OBLIGATION TO PROTECT PATIENT CONFIDENTIALITY.

Neither call created enough smoke inside to set off working smoke alarms inside the home. The firefighters had to do major damage to the cinder block structure outside in order to get to the confined space where the fire was located. There were six people at home at the time of both fires and were able to evacuate without problems or injuries.

The cause of the fire was a combustible wall inside the chimney area that ignited when the old stove that was full of creosote caught on fire. Damage is estimated at \$31,000 for structure and contents. Most of the damage was due to having to tear out the outside walls to get to the fire. There were no injuries to firefighters due to the fire.

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