



MEDIA RELEASE
Tucson Fire Department
Fire Chief Dan Newburn



Contact: Captain Norm Carlton
Public Information Office

Date: March 20, 2008

Ward-5 House fire 3626 E Frankfort Strav.

March 20, 2008

Dispatch time 2002
On scene time 2007
Under control 2014

A family of six will be staying with friends and family tonight, due to a fire in their laundry room late Thursday night. The fire started in the laundry room from flammable material stored near the water heater. Two adults were home at the time the fire started. Fortunately, both evacuated the home without injury. This family stated they did not have a working smoke detector. Firefighters took seven minutes to get this fire under control. The family will be staying with friends and family until repairs can be made.

Estimated damage: \$50,000.00

Injuries: No injuries noted at this time

Cause: Accidental flammable material stored near the water heater

Safety Messages: There are two lessons to be learned from this fire.

- You should ensure a working smoke detector in your home. We recommend that you check your smoke detector monthly and replace the batteries every year or as needed. This is a great time to get the children involved with fire safety. Have them give your smoke detector a birthday and then replace the battery on that day each year.
- Never store combustibles near your water heater and keep the area clean and free of dust. When your water heater cycles from off to on, nearby dust particles and paper products can ignite.

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