



SALEM FIRE-EMS NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – February 14, 2014

STRUCTURE FIRE AT 1778 SALEM COMMONS LANE

The Salem Fire & EMS Department responded to a structure fire at Salem Commons Apartments this afternoon at approximately 3:36 p.m. All residents who were in the building at the time of the fire were able to escape without injury. The entire apartment building did sustain heavy fire damage throughout the third floor and the whole building sustained water damage.

The first unit arrived within four minutes of receiving the call and found heavy smoke and fire coming through the roof. It took firefighters a little over an hour to contain the blaze. There was some water and smoke damage to an adjacent building, but firefighters were able to contain the fire to one building. Four firefighters were injured during the fire, and three of them were treated at the scene. One firefighter was transported to the hospital, treated and later released.

Approximately 38 personnel from the Salem Fire & EMS Department (Engine 1, Engine 2, Engine 3, Medic 802 & Medic 803), the Roanoke Fire & EMS Department (Engine 4, Engine 5, Engine 13, Ladder 5 & Medic 5) and the Salem Rescue Squad (Squad 1) responded to the call. Roanoke Fire & EMS Department (Engine 8) and the Roanoke County Fire & Rescue Department (Wagon 9) assisted with handling additional City of Salem emergency calls.

The fire remains under investigation by the Salem Fire Marshal's Office, and there is no damage estimate at this time. The fire caused damage to 20 apartments and displaced 41 residents. The American Red Cross is assisting the victims with food, lodging and clothing.

Contact:

Deputy Chief John Prillaman
Salem Fire & EMS Department
216 South Broad Street
(540) 375-3080
jprillaman@salemva.gov

Mike Stevens
City of Salem
Communications Director
(540)375-4112 - office
(540)353-2041 - cell
mstevens@salemva.gov