



KETCHIKAN FIRE DEPARTMENT

Integrity, Professionalism, Respect, Compassion, Teamwork, and Innovation
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO: All Ketchikan Area Media
FROM: Gretchen O’Sullivan, Fire Marshal
DATE: December 30, 2020
SUBJECT: Residential Structure Fire: 3437 Denali St.

On Tuesday, December 30, 2020 at 04:49 AM Ketchikan Fire Department was dispatched to a report of smoke seen in a house. Dispatch advised responding personnel that there was a possible victim trapped upstairs. The first unit arrived to find smoke and flames coming from the residence. Attempts made to effect a rescue on the third floor were hampered by heavy smoke, heat and flames.

After controlling the fire, Firefighters made entry and began a primary search, two victims were located deceased and removed from the residence. The bodies of the deceased will be sent to the State Medical Examiner for determination of cause of death. A third building occupant exited the building and remains with family.

In all, thirty firefighters and EMS providers with ten apparatus responded from KFD, STVFD, and NTVFD; as well as officers from the Ketchikan Police Department. Support was also provided by KPU water and power divisions. The home was severely damaged by smoke and fire and is uninhabitable. Red Cross is assisting the family as needed.

Investigators from the Fire Investigation Task Force have determined the fire to be cooking related, no foul play is suspected.