



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT

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Cause of south Everett fatal fire classified as undetermined

Everett Fire Department urges our community to take action to make sure they have working smoke alarms

Update 01/27/2023

EVERETT, WA - The Everett Fire Marshal's Office has completed its investigation on the double fatal townhome fire that occurred on December 25, 2022, in the 9800 block of 3rd Ave SE. After conducting a scene examination and following up on interviews with witnesses, the cause of the fire has been listed as undetermined. An undetermined cause classification means that the cause of the fire could not be proven to an acceptable level of certainty. No evidence or information leads investigators to believe a crime was committed.

Importance of smoke alarms

The home was equipped with smoke alarms, but investigators believe they were not operational.

"Smoke alarms save lives," states Everett Fire Marshal Kurtis Brown. "They are the first line of defense and a critical component to potentially alert a person to the dangers of smoke and fire. Smoke alarms provide crucial time and opportunity for you and your family to escape. It is critical that these life-saving devices are checked and tested frequently to ensure proper functioning."

The Everett Fire Department urges our community to act to ensure they have working smoke alarms in the right places in their residence. Install smoke alarms on every level of the home, including the basement, in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Larger homes may need extra smoke alarms.

It is important to remember that smoke alarms need to be maintained. All smoke alarms should be tested monthly, and batteries need to be checked and replaced regularly. Check the

manufacturer's expiration date and specifications on the label to ensure the smoke alarm is not outdated. All smoke alarms should be replaced completely every ten years. These simple steps will help ensure that you and your family will have the best chance of surviving if a fire should strike.

Families should also practice their fire escape plan, to ensure they can quickly escape if awakened by a fire. Remember to close doors behind you as you evacuate. For more information on smoke alarms and fire escape plans, visit the [National Fire Protection Association](http://www.nfpa.org) website (nfpa.org).

The Everett Fire Department has a program to assist our residents with installing smoke alarms free of charge. If you need assistance and live in the Everett city limits, contact the [Everett Fire Marshal's Office](http://www.everettwa.gov) at 425-257-8100 or email at FMO@everettwa.gov.

Update 12/28/2022

EVERETT, WA - As fire investigators continued their work to identify the cause and origin of the fire, they received conflicting information on how many individuals lived at the residence. Today, investigators returned to the home to conduct a follow-up search of the site and found an additional victim on the top floor under extensive fire debris.

The Snohomish County Medical Examiner's Office has taken custody of the second deceased victim to determine the cause and manner of death and establish identity.

The Everett Police Department is handling the death investigation.

The preliminary investigation does not lead investigators to believe any criminal activity is involved with this fire. The cause and origin of the fire continue to be under investigation.

12/26/22 Original News Release

EVERETT, WA – One person died at a South Everett 4-plex fire late last night.

Everett Fire Department crews were dispatched just before 11:30 p.m. after multiple callers to 911 reported a fire coming from one of the units of a 4-plex in the 9800 block of 3rd Ave SE.

Arriving crews found a fully involved fire in one of the units. One person died in the fire. There were no other injuries to any other occupants.

South County Fire provided mutual aid. It took approximately 35 minutes to bring the fire under control.

An Everett Fire investigator was called to the scene. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

The Snohomish County Medical Examiner's Office has taken custody of the deceased to

determine the cause and manner of death and establish identity.

The Everett Fire Department would like to remind everyone of the importance of working smoke detectors in their home. Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly. For more information on smoke alarms and fire escape plans, visit the [National Fire Protection Association website](http://nfpa.org) (nfpa.org).

The Everett Fire Department, in cooperation with the [American Red Cross of Snohomish County](#), will install smoke alarms, free of charge, in the homes of low-income, seniors and those with disabilities. If you need assistance and live in the Everett city limits, contact the [Everett Fire Marshal's Office](#) at 425-257-8100 or email at FMO@everettwa.gov.

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