

February 13, 2013

Two separate fires force occupants to evacuate

No one was injured in two separate fires that required evacuating a commercial building and an apartment building last week.

On Feb. 7 the Fire Department was notified by an alarm-monitoring company that the fire alarm had been activated in a commercial building located in the 1000 block of Shoppers Row. As the occupants were evacuating the building, they called 911 to report that heavy black smoke was coming out of a vent at the rear of the building. Fire crews quickly determined a fire was burning in the restaurant kitchen, and firefighters extinguished the cooking oil fire using dry chemical extinguishers.

“The fire protection system installed in the kitchen did its job by limiting the spread of fire until fire crews arrived” reports Fire Chief Ian Baikie. *“The system also automatically alerted people in the building by activating the fire alarm.”*

On Feb. 11 the Fire Department was notified that the fire alarm was sounding in an apartment building located in the 300 block of Dogwood Street. Crews arrived and found smoke coming from a third-floor apartment, and firefighters used fire hoses to extinguish an active fire burning in the bedroom of the apartment.

“The firefighters assisted the lone occupant to safety outside the apartment,” says Chief Baikie. *“She was not injured, however Emergency Social Services resources were called in to provide temporary housing for the woman and her husband.”*

Fire investigators have determined that the cause of both fires was accidental.

“The occupants of both buildings at the time of the fires are credited with evacuating the premises when fire alarm sounded,” Baikie adds.

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Contact: Ian Baikie, Fire Chief

250-286-6266