



CITY OF KENNER

News Release

E. "BEN" ZAHN III
MAYOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 14, 2018

QUICK RESPONSE TO BACK-TO-BACK FIRES WEDNESDAY MORNING IN KENNER

Kenner, LA. – The Kenner Fire Department responded to two structure fires in south Kenner Wednesday morning - the first was located at 1039 Reverend Richard Wilson Drive, where 68 tenants currently reside at the Riverview Apartments, and the second was at 309 Oxley Street.

In the first blaze, a neighbor spotted smoke coming from the west side of the building and called 911. The first unit was dispatched within 30 seconds, and the first truck was on the scene in just over one minute.

Just two weeks ago, on February 25th, firefighters responded to a call of a fire at the same complex. Firefighters put out a fire in the unit next door to today's fire, and repairs were made to the building's sprinkler system on February 25th.

Today's fire on Reverend Richard Wilson Drive was under control within 10 minutes, according to fire officials. The Kenner Fire Inspector and the senior Code Inspector were also present while the Fire Department still controlled the scene.

During cleanup at the apartment complex, a second structure fire call was received on Oxley, with the truck arriving in one minute from the first structure fire. The Oxley call was just blocks away from the first scene, and responders had the water heater fire under control within one minute.

East Jefferson Emergency Medical Service was on scene as a standby in the event of an injury to any first responder or resident. However, no injuries were reported during either incident. Kenner police controlled traffic flow on this congested area of the roadway.

Mayor Ben Zahn applauds the teamwork with which our city departments coordinate efforts. "Every time one of our residents or businesses is in need, Kenner team members are there. Our departments work well

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together under a variety of conditions, even when the public only sees them in emergencies. Training together routinely provides a common working understanding that we as a City are proud to offer to the community."

"Our fire department handles every emergency with care and priority," Interim Fire Chief Ryan Bergeron said. "Even when we get called back to a location, it is a different scenario every time. In this case, it appears to have started in an unsecured vacant apartment. The homeland security phrase, 'See something, say something' applies in every situation, as emergency responders all work together to make Kenner a safer, better place."

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