



CITY OF KENNER

News Release

E. "BEN" ZAHN III
MAYOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIRE DESTROYS 12-UNIT COMPLEX; 30 RESIDENTS FORCED FROM THEIR HOMES

Kenner, LA. – A two-alarm fire heavily damaged a 12-unit apartment complex on 42nd Street in north Kenner early Wednesday, causing serious roof damage and leaving the structure uninhabitable, Kenner officials said.

The fire, at 1733 42nd St., was reported at 5:05 a.m. and the first engine headed to the apartment complex reported seeing smoke from the fire station at 1919 40th St., according to Fire Chief John Hellmers.

A total of 30 people were affected, including five children under the age of 12, one teen and 21 adults. Twenty-seven people were being sheltered temporarily at the Woodward Gym, 1934 34th St., as part of an agreement between the city and the local chapter of the American Red Cross.

"I want to commend the firefighters who battled this blaze and conducted an extensive search when it appeared there might be a person trapped inside," Kenner Mayor Ben Zahn said. Zahn said Kenner recreation department officials will work the American Red Cross to assist fire victims at the Woodward Gym.

Firefighters arriving at the scene four minutes after the call were faced with flames in the common stairwell on the second floor, Hellmers said. Firefighters received a report of residents possibly still in the building and an interior search was conducted until receiving confirmation all residents escaped safely, Hellmers said.

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