



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 12, 2021

Gina Y. Sweat, Director of Fire Services  
CONTACT: Lt. Wayne A. Cooke  
Public Information Officer, MFD  
901-636-5682 O, 901-508-0614 C  
Wayne.Cooke@memphistn.gov

## RESIDENTIAL FIRE 1053 Whitaker Drive #104 (Birch Leaf Apartments)



**MEMPHIS, TN** - The Memphis Fire Department responded to an alarm of fire at 1053 Whitaker Drive, Thursday, August 12, 2021 at 3:16 p.m. Upon arrival on the scene, firefighters reported smoke visible from the two-story apartments. Twenty-one (21) pieces of Fire/Rescue/EMS equipment and approximately forty-six (46) emergency response personnel ultimately responded to the call. Battalion Chief S. Seward was the commanding officer of this incident. The fire was brought under control at 3:28 p.m. *An adult female was transported in non-critical condition to Regional One Burn Unit with smoke inhalation and 2<sup>nd</sup> degree burns to her arm. Two minor children were transported to Le Bonheur Children's Hospital with smoke inhalation.* There were no firefighter injuries.

It has been determined that the residence **did not have** a working smoke alarm. Four units sustained smoke, fire and/or water damage. Total damage is estimated at \$15,000.00 structure and \$3,000.00 contents. The origin and cause of the fire was determined to be electrical wiring that malfunctioned above the ceiling in the bedroom. Red Cross provided assistance for three (3) families.

The Memphis Fire Department urges all citizens to maintain a working smoke alarm in their place of residence. Check smoke alarms once a month and change the battery when you change your clocks. City of Memphis residents may apply for a **free smoke alarm** on-line at: <https://www.memphistn.gov/government/fire-department/free-smoke-alarm-application/> or call the Fire Museum of Memphis at (901) 636-5650. Always have a plan of escape in case there is a fire. Also remember that 9-1-1 is for emergencies only. For all other **FIRE/EMS NON-EMERGENCY** issues please dial (901) 458-8281.

###