



FIRE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATHENS FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONDS TO ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY FIRE

ATHENS, TENNESSEE – June 14, 2022 – The Athens Fire Department responded to a fire alarm at Athens Place Assisted Living located at 120 Keith Lane on June 11, 2022, at approximately 11:18 a.m. Minutes later, an employee called 911 and confirmed they did have a fire in the storage closet in the Memory Care wing.

The Athens Fire Department arrived on the scene and Battalion 3 immediately established command.

Upon arrival, no fire or smoke was visible from the exterior of the structure. Firefighters made entry through the main entrance and continued to the hall that led to the fire. The hall was smoke-filled. Our firefighters quickly located the source of the fire, a fan box in the attic of a storage room. The fire was contained to a small area in the attic above the storage closet and the fire was quickly extinguished. A primary and secondary search was conducted and completed. Firefighters confirmed with onsite staff that accountability was in check.

Athens Fire Department assisted Athens Place Assisted Living staff with setting up a safe place in the parking lot. Three residents were transported to the ER for heat-related injuries and were treated and released on the same day.

Athens Fire Department would like to express their gratitude to the following agencies: Athens Police Department, American Medical Response (AMR), Athens Rural Fire Department, Englewood Volunteer Fire Department, Riceville Volunteer Fire Department, Athens Utilities Board, and 911 Dispatchers. These agencies assisted with covering the city and relocating the residents. Several local churches and facilities loaned buses and staff to help. Keith Memorial United Methodist Church opened its doors to relocate the residents.

Chief Ainsworth noted that everyone involved with this fire did an exceptional job. He also stated, "I would like to give the staff of Athens Place Assisted Living credit for the phenomenal job they did evacuating the residents as fire units arrived. Many of the residents could not self-evacuate. The residents are blessed to have such amazing caregivers. They not only took care of the residents, but they worked hand in hand with us. The staff at Athens Place Assisted Living was prepared and did an awesome job. The outcome in this situation could not have been any better."

For more information, please contact Fire Chief Brandon Ainsworth at 423-744-2789 or bainsworth@athenstn.gov.