

Wembly Drive fire sends resident to hospital, causes \$500,000 in damage

Oct. 5, 2020 — A Sunday night fire resulted in one individual being transported to hospital and an estimated \$500,000 in damages, underscoring the importance of home fire safety.

St. Catharines Fire Services were called to 5 Wembly Drive at 9:36 p.m. on Sunday night, responding with five trucks to the low-rise, three-storey condominium. It appears the fire originated in a unit on the third floor of the building and quickly spread to the attic area.

Quick action on behalf of fire crews was able to limit the spread of the fire. Damages are estimated to be \$500,000 and the Office of the Fire Marshal has been called in to investigate. With the investigation ongoing the cause of the fire has not been determined at this time.

The response of St. Catharines Fire Services comes as the City marks fire prevention week. The fire serves as an important reminder that home fire safety should always be at the front of mind for residents.

“While we have yet to determine the origin and cause of this fire, many fires, and fire related injuries can often be avoided,” said Fire Chief Jeff McCormick, adding, “for us resident safety is always the first priority, and a big part of that is educating our residents, not only on how to prevent fires, but how to respond should a fire start in their home.”

Residents can stay fire safe by:

- Having a home fire escape plan
- Cooking safely by never leaving cooking unattended, keeping combustible materials away from stovetops and turning off the stovetop and covering a fire with a lid should a stovetop fire start
- Properly disposing of cigarettes and smoking materials in large deep ashtrays, and not in potted plants
- Ensuring their home has working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms

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