



Lady's Island St. Helena Fire District
Press Release

For Immediate Release

November 29, 2007

Lady's Island – At approximately 3:50pm this afternoon the Lady's Island St. Helena Fire District responded to the report of a structure fire on Alumni Road in the vicinity of Fairfield Drive on Lady's Island.

While responding, 3 fire engines, 2 support vehicles, and 5 officers could see a large glow and smoke above the treetops in the area and feared that they had a working fire. Initial units arrived to confirm all fears, as John Norton, crew officer on the first arriving fire truck stated that he had "heavy fire in the center portion of the structure." in what turned out to be a 1600 square foot home almost 75% involved.

Fire personnel sprang into action and were able to control the fire within 15 minutes of arrival and extinguish it completely in the minutes following containment. "When I arrived and made my way to the rear of the structure I saw fire from the ground to the roof!" reported Assistant Chief Scott Goneke who was also one of the first arriving personnel.

Multiple hose lines were deployed not only to extinguish the fire but also to prevent it from running into the nearby wooded area and other structures. The home is valued at approximately \$160,000 and fortunately was an unoccupied rental home at the time of the fire. "The home was located well back off the road which allowed the fire time to grow before a passer by reported it via 9-1-1." states Lee Levesque, spokesman for the fire department.

After nearly four hours on scene the cause of the fire is still under investigation and this incident is a stark reminder that the holiday season is not immune to the ravages of fire. The Lady's Island St. Helena Fire District would like to encourage people to add a few minutes of fire safety planning into their holiday routine so that the next fire never happens!

END

For more information concerning this incident please contact
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