

Conroe Fire Department



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AUTOMATIC FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM SAVES APARTMENTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 31, 2018

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Conroe, TX: The City of Conroe Fire Department was notified of an apartment fire at 500 Hickerson St. (Hollow Creek Apartments) at approximately 1:20 p.m. on March 31, 2018.

Conroe Firefighters arrived at approximately 1:28 p.m. and discovered that there had been a cooking fire in the kitchen of one of the apartment units which activated a single fire sprinkler head and extinguished the fire.

One occupant suffered minor burns to the hand and arm. There were no reported injuries to firefighters. Fire damage was confined to the stove top cooking surface. Water damage was confined to the apartment of origin. The cause of the fire was unattended cooking and was determined to be unintentional.

It was discovered, approximately 6 weeks prior to this fire, that the fire sprinkler system for the involved building had been rendered inoperable by the freezing conditions experienced the previous winter. Through conscientious inspection and enforcement efforts undertaken by the Conroe Fire Department Fire Marshal's Office, the system was repaired and placed back into service during the weeks leading up to this fire. As a result, it is likely that hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage and property loss to the building's owners and occupants were saved. Further, no occupants were displaced and possible injuries and deaths to citizens and firefighters were prevented.

Automatic fire sprinkler systems have over 100 years of proven performance protecting life and property.

The Conroe Fire Department would like to remind the public that unattended cooking is the leading cause of residential fires in Conroe, and throughout the United States, each year. Being mindful while you cook, however, can go a long way toward helping to prevent these fires:

- **Keep an eye on what you fry;
- **Be alert when cooking; and
- **Keep things that can catch fire away from the cooking area.

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