



**City of Littleton**  
LITTLETON FIRE RESCUE

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**City of Littleton**  
**LITTLETON FIRE RESCUE**  
**ADMINISTRATION**  
2255 W. Berry Ave.  
Littleton, CO 80165  
303-795-3800  
M-F, 8 am -5 pm  
TDD: 303-794-1555  
**Fire non-emergency**  
303-794-1555  
24 hours/day

## For Immediate Release

**Contact:** Jay Ruoff, Division Chief, 303-851-7410

**Date:** December 26, 2003

### Fire burns structure in Trailmark subdivision

On December 25, 2003 at 11:30:48 Littleton Fire Rescue received the first of numerous reports of a structure fire at 9815 W. Freiburg Drive located in the TrailMark subdivision in the City of Littleton.

- First fire unit arrived on scene at 11:43:18.
- Based on witness interviews, the Unit A balcony was heavily involved with fire. According to one witness, "The fire seemed to explode upwards and was rapidly reaching the roof of the patio. The fire seemed to spread very quickly as we evacuated."
- Fire had spread extensively throughout the attic space before firefighters arrived. Residents reported that there was smoke visible from the roof eaves on both ends of the building prior to the arrival of the first fire engine.
- An interior fire attack was made to extinguish fire in the living room and on the balcony of Unit A.
- Firefighters while checking for fire extension in the attic space above Unit A found fire and attempted to extinguish the fire.
- Along with the simultaneous fire attack, firefighters insured the evacuation of the building by checking the individual condominium units.
- While checking the uninvolved units, firefighters found heavy fire in the attic space above Unit C and attempted to extinguish the fire.
- A second alarm assignment was dispatched at 11:53:31.
- A total of 11 units consisting of 28 personnel were on scene and actively engaged in firefighting operations. These units were from Littleton Fire Rescue, West Metro Fire Rescue, and Englewood Fire Rescue.
- Additional support personnel who responded consisted of The American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Arapahoe Rescue Patrol, Action Care Ambulance, Xcel Energy, Denver Water Board and Littleton Police Department.
- Due to the overwhelming amount of fire in the attic and concern for firefighter safety, an exterior attack was initiated, utilizing two aerial apparatus. Firefighters were withdrawn from the interior of the structure during the defensive attack on the fire.
- Low water pressures were encountered, but did not compromise fire suppression activities. Fire attack strategies were adjusted for the water pressures during the fire attack.
- Exterior application of water from aerial devices was stopped to allow firefighters to attack the fire from the interior of the building. This strategy allows firefighters to make an aggressive interior attack resulting in reduced property loss and damage.
- One bystander was evaluated for possible respiratory distress, and transported to Littleton Hospital for further evaluation. One firefighter was transported to Littleton Hospital for a minor knee injury.
- The first of three fire investigators arrived on scene at 12:35:04. The fire scene was secured and the investigation continued until 10:27:01 on December 26, 2003 when the property was released to the Homeowners Association.
- The fire investigation confirmed that the fire originated on the balcony of Unit A,

spreading upward into the roof/attic area.

- The Fire Investigators met with the homeowners initially at 4 p.m., December 25, 2003 briefing them on the fire suppression activities and fire investigation status. The homeowners were also briefed at 9 p.m., December 25, 2003 on salvage and overhaul operations and a fire investigation status. A final briefing was held with the homeowners at 9 a.m., December 26, 2003 on the preliminary fire investigation findings.
- Denver Water Board has initiated an aggressive evaluation and assessment of the water distribution system in the TrailMark area. The City of Littleton will remain in contact with the Denver Water Board on this issue.
- The preliminary fire cause was determined to be accidental. Arson was ruled out as a fire cause. Several items of evidence were collected from the balcony of Unit A for further examination. A detailed review of witness statements, interviews, scene photographs, incident reports, time logs, 911 tapes, and all evidence will be evaluated to complete the final cause and origin report.



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