

Cigarette butt the cause of residential fire

Edmonton Fire Rescue Services (EFRS) has completed its investigation of a residential fire that caused more than \$500,000 in damages to two homes in north east Edmonton on Tuesday, May 6. After interviewing the property owners, witnesses and investigating the scene, EFRS has determined that the fire began when a cigarette was improperly disposed of in a plant pot.



Shortly before 6:30 p.m., EFRS received a 911 call from a woman reporting a plant pot on fire on the front porch of neighbour's house. Flames from the plant pot travelled up the vinyl siding of the house and into its attic. The fire quickly spread to the siding of the house directly south of the first property.

Eight units and 32 firefighters responded to the call at 76 Street and 170 Avenue. Firefighters brought the blaze under control in both homes within 45 minutes.

Total damage for both properties is estimated at \$500,000 (\$250,000 per house) for both contents and property.

Some of the most dangerous and devastating home fires are caused by the improper disposal of smoking materials.

Edmontonians who smoke should:

- Smoke outside.
- Be aware that potted plants, planters, and flower beds contain combustible material in the soil and are not to be used as "ashtrays."
- Use deep, wide ashtrays on a sturdy table.
- Douse cigarette butts and ashes with water or sand before disposing of them.
- Never smoke in a home where oxygen tanks are being used.
- Be alert when smoking. Avoid lighting up when you are tired, intoxicated or have taken medicine that causes drowsiness.

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