

# News Release

July 23, 2014

City of Edmonton

## Damage estimate climbs to \$10 million in fire caused by cigarette butt

Edmonton Fire Rescue Services has completed its investigation into the cause of a July 21 fire at the Park Place South Hamptons condo complex at 1520 Hammond Gate. Examination of the scene has revealed that the fire began after a cigarette was improperly disposed of in a potted plant on a fourth floor balcony.

The planting material in the pot allowed the cigarette butt to continue to smoulder until the pot ignited, shortly before 1:30 a.m. The fire quickly moved from the pot to the vinyl siding on the building and continued into the wall and floor before breaching the roof. From there, the fire spread rapidly throughout the attic to each side of the opposing fire wall, where fire crews were able to gain control of it at approximately 3:15 a.m. Firefighters remained on scene for much of the day extinguishing hot spots. The fire was called out at 2:45 p.m.

All 186 suites (approximately 400 residents) were evacuated. Fire Rescue Services' Office of Emergency Management was on scene on Monday to coordinate social services and relief efforts, which have since been taken over by the Canadian Red Cross.

The fire resulted in \$10 million in damages to the building and its contents, including extensive fire, water, and smoke damage to an undetermined number of suites.

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