

Improperly disposed smoking material cause of northeast Edmonton condo fire

Officials with Edmonton Fire Rescue Services say improperly disposed smoking material was the cause of a fire that destroyed most of a four-storey building at a northeast Edmonton condominium complex.

The fire, which broke out at the Avenue complex at 301 Clareview Station Drive West just before 5 p.m. on Friday, May 22, caused \$16.3 million in damage.

"Fire Rescue Services would like to acknowledge the profound impact a fire of this magnitude has on the people affected. Our thoughts are with the families impacted as they deal with this significant loss. This was a devastating fire, we are extremely fortunate that there were no fatalities and no major injuries sustained by citizens or our crews," said Fire Chief Ken Block.

"However, this fire was completely preventable. I would like to raise awareness of the increasing risk of smoking materials on balconies of large wood-framed, combustible buildings. I am calling on Edmontonians to take responsibility for their actions related to fire use and to exercise good fire prevention practices at all times."

"Edmontonians need to understand their actions can have profound and devastating effects on their neighbours, community and city," added Chief Block. "If this fire had started at a different time of day, the outcome may have been very different."

This is the second major fire in Edmonton in less than a year that was caused by smoking material that has been improperly discarded.

Large condo buildings fires can lead to significantly more damage outside the property and put the public at greater risk. All Edmontonians, especially those living in large multi-residential complexes, need to be vigilant in their fire safety practices. This includes the proper maintenance of barbecues and the safe disposal of smoking materials.

Edmonton Fire Rescue brought the three-alarm fire under control within about three hours. Two firefighters sustained minor injuries and were treated on scene. One citizen also sustained minor injuries and was transported to hospital by Emergency Medical Services.

KDM Management, the property management company responsible for the Avenue complex, is working closely with condo owners and tenants. Residents will be allowed to retrieve personal belongings today.

People who want to help those affected by the fire can make a donation to the [Emergency Relief Services Society](#). It is collecting household items for evacuees. Donations can also be made to the Red Cross by calling 1.800.418.1111 or by visiting [redcross.ca](#)

For more information:
Visit [edmonton.ca/fire safety](#)

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