

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE February 19, 2021

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Taking Care of Business – February 18, 2021**

New Updates

[New Director Announcement](#)

Michael Gange will join the City of Dallas as the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality and Sustainability (OEQS) [on March 3rd](#). Mr. Gange has 30 years of environmental quality and sustainability experience, with 16 of those years in a variety of roles at the City of Fort Worth. He has a broad understanding of city government and its environmental complexities. His passion for local government started in 1998 when he became part of the City of Fort Worth's Environmental Management Department. As Fort Worth's Assistant Director, he directed the Environmental Management Division over citywide environmental compliance as well as city facility compliance. Mr. Gange was a part of the LaGrave Field Redevelopment, Trinity River Vision, and Chisholm Trail Parkway projects in Fort Worth. He was most recently the Vice President of Environmental Operations for a local consulting firm. In that capacity, he focused on due diligence for property development as well as assisting industry operations to exceed Clean Water Act standards. Mr. Gange grew up in Dallas; he holds a Bachelor's in Marine Science from Texas A&M University at Galveston and a Master's in Environmental Science from the University of North Texas. Please join me in welcoming Michael to the City of Dallas!

[City Manager's Corner – Severe Winter Weather Week](#)

This week, I want to recognize the thousands of employees who have been working non-stop to provide our residents with the resources they need during this time. Aside from our first responders, many employees have been putting themselves at risk, delivering goods and resources to our warming shelters and residents at high risk. Others were more than willing to open their warm homes to residents and fellow employees who went without power or water. From Convention Center to Public Works, Sanitation and Dallas Water Utilities, I want to thank these departments and many more for all their hard work during this time. Your hard work and perseverance do not go unnoticed. Thank you to all who have stepped up and faced this weather to help those in need. Dallas is a great place to live and work – and this is because of you.

[Winter Weather Updates](#)

Please use the below to share with residents on where they can locate updated department information and resources related to warming centers and helpful tips. Social media graphics are attached. If you need to update or add your department information to this site, please contact media@dallascityhall.com.

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The City of Dallas is continuing to respond to the impact of winter weather in the area. Check the City's website frequently for updates on warming centers and closures. Dallas residents are encouraged to use the OurDallas App or 311 website to report issues related to animal welfare or Code Compliance concerns. For urgent water issues, please call 3-1-1. <http://bit.ly/2NjR3no>

La Ciudad de Dallas sigue respondiendo al impacto del temporal de invierno en el área. Visita regularmente la página de la Ciudad para obtener información actualizada acerca de los centros de calentamiento y cierres. Se recomienda a los residentes de Dallas utilizar la aplicación OurDallas o el sitio web 311 para informar sobre problemas relacionados con el bienestar de los animales o el Cumplimiento del Código. Para cuestiones urgentes relacionadas con el agua, llame al 3-1-1. <http://bit.ly/2NjR3no>

For those asking about donations, the City of Dallas continues its partnership with the Communities Foundation of Texas. Individuals can make donations [here](#).

- Monetary donations are easier to manage and allocated efficiently the necessary supplies; however, if anyone has blankets, non-perishable food, please contact Christina da Silva at christina.dasilva@dallascityhall.com.
- DPD Contact for cold weather supplies is being coordinated through [Christina da Silva](#).

For more information, please contact Carrie Prysock, Director of the Mayor and City Council Office.

[Save the Date – State of Homelessness Address](#)

The results of the 2021 Point In Time Homeless Count will be presented by Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance on May 11, 2021 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This year's State of Homelessness address will be livestreamed on Vimeo. Registration information will be shared when it becomes available.

[Code Compliance Implementation of a Pilot Program](#)

The Department of Code Compliance Services is empathetic toward our unsheltered population and is offering solutions to improve living conditions and reducing blight in our city.

Last week we placed 32 roll-off carts in a portion of the downtown area that normally houses a large population of our homeless community. The roll carts offer our residents an option for disposing of trash and debris versus placing it on the ground. In addition, our team is proactively distributing trash bags and educating the community on use of the carts.



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The carts will be monitored weekly and emptied as needed by CCS staff. To help easily identify the carts used for this program, they are blue with lime green lids and are secured.

New Procurement Opportunities

The Office of Procurement Services (OPS) is excited to announce the following new contract opportunities. More information can be found on the City’s [electronic bid portal](#):

Opportunity No.	Opportunity Name
CIZ1968	Trinity Forest Spine Trail Phase 1 - Site Development, by Park and Recreation Department
CIZ1969	Part 1 Water & Wastewater Small Services Installations at Various Locations, Part 2 Water & Wastewater Main Installations at Various Locations, Part 3 Water & Wastewater Mainline Extensions and Emergency Mainline Replacements/Relocations at Various Locations, by Dallas Water Utilities
CIZ1970	Water and Wastewater Main Replacements at Various Locations, by Dallas Water Utilities
BJ21-00012963	Citywide Painting Services
BF21-00014070	Cleaning of Various Wastewater Plant Process Units
BR21-00015824	CV-COVID-19- Emergency Assistance Program
BRZ21-00015807	Financial Empowerment Centers

We are also pleased to share the latest [Procurement Quarterly](#), listing citywide opportunities for the current quarter (of the fiscal year) and published on the OPS [website](#). Please be advised that once an opportunity is advertised, it is considered an open procurement until the City Council awards the contract. The Code of Ethics prohibits communication between councilmembers and vendors/ suppliers on open procurements. Should you have any questions, please contact Chhunny Chhean, Director of Procurement Services.

Look Ahead

City Council Briefings

March 3, 2021

- Illegal Dumping & Blight Abatement Strategic Plan
- Final Draft of Strategic Mobility Plan/Connect Dallas Plan
- City Manager 2021 Goals

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Media Inquiries

As of February 16, 2021, the City has received media requests from various news outlets regarding the following topics:

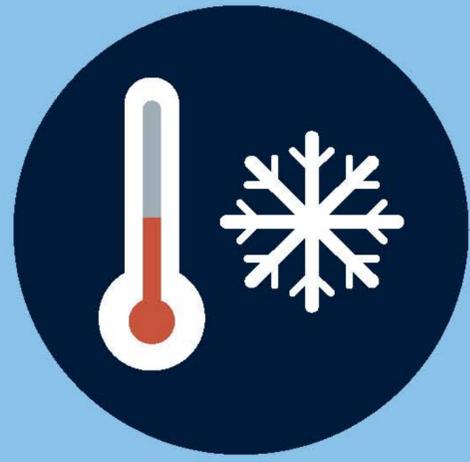
- Persons experiencing homelessness & inclement weather
- Man living in car
- Board Meeting Council Item
- Shelter Questions
- EOC
- NOFA Task Force Meeting Inquiry
- Winter Storm & Resource
- The City Prepares for COVID19 Vaccinations During Inclement Weather
- Low Percentage of First Responders Choosing to Get Vaccinated
- Two Fires at South Dallas Museum Sparks Media Interest
- Overnight Weather Causes Spike in Accident Responses
- Fire Educators Talk Heating Safety with Multiple Media Outlets
- Twenty Residents Displaced After Apartment Fire in Northeast Dallas Apartment Fire
- Multiple News Agencies Inquire About DFRs Responses to Weather-Related Incidents
- DFR Talks About Challenges Associated with Fighting Fire in Freezing Temperatures
- Carbon Monoxide Calls on the Rise During Cold Weather
- Univision Inquires About What to Call 911 For
- Firefighters Extinguish Garage Fire in East Dallas Home
- 24 Apartment Destroyed in North Dallas Apartment Fire

Please see the attached document compiling information provided to media outlets, during the period from February 9 – February 16, 2021, for your reference. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff.



T.C. Broadnax
City Manager

c: Chris Caso, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Billerae Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager
Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Dr. Eric A. Johnson, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion
Directors and Assistant Directors



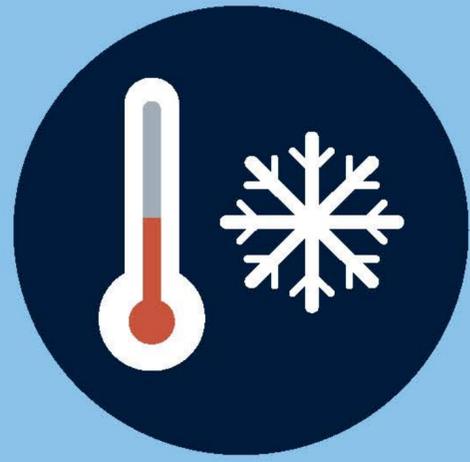
CITY OF DALLAS WARMING CENTERS OPEN

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

DALLASCITYHALL.COM



City of Dallas



CIUDAD DE DALLAS CENTROS DE CALENTAMIENTO ABIERTOS

PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN, VISITE:

DALLASCITYHALL.COM



City of Dallas

Communications, Outreach & Marketing
Media Requests
Feb 10 – Feb 16

Date Submitted: 2/10/2021

Topic: Persons experiencing homelessness & inclement weather

Inquiry: Ken Kalthoff asked what accommodations the city is making for people experiencing homelessness in light of inclement weather.

Submitted By: Catherine Cuellar (Office of Homeless Solutions)

Media Entity: Ken Kalthoff, NBC 5

Date Submitted: 2/10/2021

Topic: Man living in car

Inquiry: The City recommended Telemundo refer a man who happened to be homeless to Our Calling.

Submitted By: Catherine Cuellar (Office of Homeless Solutions)

Media Entity: Zully Salgado, Telemundo

Date Submitted: 2/11/2021

Topic: Board Meeting Council Item

Inquiry: The city shared a link to the video of City Council Agenda Item 28 on Feb. 11 allowing undocumented immigrants to participate in board and commissions upon request from Nancy Leal of NBC 5. Link provided as a courtesy here: [February 10, 2021 City Council Agenda Meetings - Dallas, TX \(swagit.com\)](#)

Submitted By: Catherine Cuellar

Media Entity: Nancy Leal, NBC

Date Submitted: 2/12/2021

Topic: Shelter Questions

Inquiry: The city of Dallas confirmed inclement weather shelter would be provided to persons experiencing homelessness at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center at Dallas.

Operations will continue through Friday (2/19) of next week depending on weather conditions.

Submitted By: Anastasia Reed

Media Entity: Patrick Randolph, NBC 5

Date Submitted: 2/12/2021

Topic: EOC

Inquiry: The city confirmed the Emergency Operations Center at City Hall would not be activated.

Submitted By: Rocky Vaz (OEM)

Media Entity: Scott Friedman, NBC 5

Date Submitted: 2/15/2021 (City holiday)

Topic: NOFA Task Force Meeting Inquiry

Inquiry: We provided Diane Xavier a copy of the most recent NOFA meeting attended by the Housing Policy Task Force at her request.

Submitted By: Nichelle Sullivan (Housing & Neighborhood Revitalization)

Media Entity: Diane Xavier, Dallas Examiner

Date Submitted:

Topic:

Inquiry:

Submitted By:

Media Entity:

Date Submitted: 2/14-2/15

Topic: Winter Storm & Resource

Inquiry: Over the holiday weekend, the City of Dallas received many inquiries from local and national media. The answers have been compiled and condensed below:

The City has about 70 trucks retrofitted with sand spreaders throughout Dallas. We concentrate on bridges, overpasses, inclines, and intersections on most major thoroughfares. The City of Dallas is responsible for keeping major city streets and Trinity River bridges clear and passable. The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for the highways, and the North Texas Tollway Authority is responsible for the toll roads.

The Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center has enough space to be expanded to accommodate more people. 110 people were accommodated Friday/Saturday and 136 people on Saturday/Sunday. We confirmed the KBHCC is on a smart grid.

We also coordinated morning show interviews featuring Robert Perez, Public Works Director.

Submitted By: COMS team

Media Entity: NBC 5/Telemundo, WFAA, Univision, Everton Bailey – DMN Reporter, KERA



CITY OF DALLAS

Dallas Fire-Rescue Department
Media Requests: February 9 – 15, 2021.

Tuesday, February 9th: Dallas Morning News (Everton Bailey) - Quick question for you regarding vaccinations resuming today at KBHCC. Have there been any modifications made in the process due to the cold weather?

City Response - For just the cold, we have made no changes to the process.

However, if/when it rains, the appointment verification area, currently in Lot C, will be moved to the covered section of Ceremonial Street, between Griffin and Lamar. Residents would enter off of Lamar.

Wednesday, February 10th: Univision 23 (Erika Torres Caraban) - I hope you are staying warm on this cold Wednesday. We wanted to know if you could tell us what percentage of your department has opted to not get the covid-19 vaccine? If possible can you also tell us what are the some of the commons reasons you have heard for them getting it or not getting it?

City Response - There are a total of 1,985 uniformed members of Dallas Fire-Rescue, but 738 of them elected to receive the COVID-19 vaccine; equaling 37% of the department. While there are others who have been vaccinated through Parkland hospital, and perhaps through another means, we are not tracking those numbers; but with that being the case, I'd say that the total is probably closer to 40%.

Since receiving the vaccination is voluntary, and disclosing a reason for refusal is not requisite, we are unable to say specifically why more DFR members aren't getting the vaccine.

Generally speaking, the reasons that firefighters have are probably consistent with those from anyone else; like concerns over the speed at which the vaccines were developed, whether any corners were cut during that process, concerns over unknown long-term effects, among other reasons.

All we can do as a department is provide the facts to our members so they can conduct their own risk vs. benefit analysis, and make an educated and informed decision on what they feel is best for them and their families.

Wednesday, February 10th: Dallas Weekly (Dianté Marigny) - I'm Dianté, reporter with Dallas Weekly. I am covering the fires that took place at the Kathlyn Joy Gilliam Museum on November 21, 2020 and January 1, 2021.

What I would like to know for the public is, when a fire is deemed undetermined what are the specific details of that? Does undetermined just mean we don't know what caused it? Do we know if it was done on purpose? Can you just explain exactly what undetermined means so that I can add it to my report? Also, there is a hole in the front room of the museum that the owner Connie seems to think started the fire, is that an official statement of the firefighters that were there that day?

Any details you provide me would be awesome!

I look forward to your response!

City Response - Simply stated, an "undetermined" fire is one in which there are multiple potential causes.

While it would seem to some that determining the cause of a fire is a simple matter of finding the most likely cause and settling on it, what's more important is being able to rule out all other potential causes.

In response to your question about the "hole in the front room", I can tell you that firefighters informed investigators that they observed fire coming from a hole in a front window when they arrived at the scene of the November 21st fire.

If you need copies of the report, you can get them by sending an email to openrecords@dallascityhall.com. Please reference incident numbers 2020262004 and 2021000088.

Thursday, February 11th: Univision 23 (Erika Torres Caraban) and WFAA 8 (Lourdes Vazquez) - I hope you are staying warm tonight. I am going to be checking in with your department a couple times tonight to ask about accidents responded to and more specifically to weather related accidents. If your system does not show specifically weather related ones let us know- how many in general? What are you guys seeing out there? Please let us know so we can best inform our audience during our morning newscast.

City Response - Dallas Fire-Rescue does not track "weather related" accidents. Therefore, I can only tell you that we were dispatched to 72 accidents since midnight.

Thursday, February 11th: Dallas Morning News (Krista Torralva) - Krista Torralva here from The Dallas Morning News. We just spoke about my interview request. To recap, I'm writing about the record cold Dallas is having and how residents can safely warm their homes.

City Response – Set her up with Fire Education Lieutenant, Anthony Jacobs, which can be read at <https://www.dallasnews.com/2021/02/11/dallas-braces-for-record-cold-temperatures-electricity-use/>

Friday, February 12th: Estrella TV (Juanita) – Called to request a Spanish interview with someone regarding heating safety.

City Response – Connected her with Senior Fire Prevention Officer, Daisy Castaneda, for her needs. The interview aired on the same day, but there is no available link with which to view it.

Friday, February 12th: WFAA 8 (Rebecca Lopez) - Just wanted to talk to someone about preparing for the cold weather similar to what you guys did with the DMN I could just do it via zoom.

City Response – Sent her up with Fire Education Officer, Selina Villarreal. The story aired that evening, but there is not available like to see if at.

Saturday, February 13th: All local media outlets - I am reaching out for information on this fire located on 6603 E Lovers Lane. Has anyone been evacuated, injured, and or transported?

City Response - At 3:17 p.m., Dallas Fire-Rescue units responded to a 911 call for a structure fire at the LaVita on Lovers Lane Apartments, located at 6603 East Lovers Lane, in Northeast Dallas. When firefighters arrived at the two-story apartment building, they saw smoke coming from a unit on the second floor. Attack teams moved in for an offensive fire attack; but the fire had already spread into the attic space, so they had to breach the roof and ceiling on both sides of the fire to keep it from spreading laterally over the entirety of the building. Approximately 70 firefighters worked to mitigate the situation, as the fire was declared extinguished around 5:00 p.m.

There were 8 units in the building of origin, 7 of which suffered varying combinations of fire, smoke and water damage. At least 20 resident are estimate to be displaced as a result of the fire, but property management was working to place resident in vacant apartments on-site. They are also working with the American Red Cross to determine the remaining needs of each displaced resident.

Thankfully, there were no injuries reported as a result of the fire, and the fire's cause is undetermined.

Sunday, February 14th: WFAA 8 (Lourdes Vazquez) - Can you provide information on how many calls DFR responded to calls of cold exposure and how many were transported?

City Response - The only category we have that directly correlates a response to the current environment, is an "Environmental Emergency"; and we haven't responded to any such calls today. There are several other call types that could be the result of the cold weather exposure, but that type of diagnosis would not be made at the pre-hospital level.

Sunday, February 14th: NBC 5/Telemundo (Claire Cardona) - Do you know how many motor vehicle accidents and other cold/weather-related incidents DFR has responded to since midnight?

City Response - DFR has only responded to 34 major accidents since midnight. I am not able to tell you if these accidents were weather related. Also, we have had no calls for "Environmental Emergencies".

Sunday, February 14th: Univision 23 (Nathalie Palacios) - We would like to request information in regard to a 2 alarm fire at 3302 W Camp Wisdom Rd.

City Response - On Saturday, February 14th, at 11:34 a.m., Dallas Fire-Rescue units were dispatched to a 911 call for a structure fire at a vacant building, located at 3302 West Camp Wisdom Road, in Southwest Dallas. There is no available additional information this fire, but there have been no reported injuries.

Sunday, February 14th: Dallas Morning News (Bailey Everton), Univision23 (Nathalie Palacios) and NBC5/Telemundo (Cynthia Garcia) - Has DFR responded to any weather-related calls involving people who are unsheltered? If so, do you know the outcome of those events? Also, any idea how many crashes DFR crews have responded to today?

City Response - The only call type we have that speaks specifically to an environmental exposure, is "Environmental Emergency". Today, we have responded to zero such calls. While I'm sure there are other call types that could ultimately be attributed to the cold weather, that would only become evident during the course of patient assessment.

Also, DFR has responded to 87 accidents since midnight. However, I don't have the ability to identify those that may have been weather related.

Sunday, February 14th: Univision 23 (Nathalie Palacios) - Can you tell us about how different it is trying to contain and extinguish fires during this type of weather?

City Response - The first challenge that comes with fighting fire in such weather seems obvious, but is the most important, is getting to the scene safely. Because road conditions are treacherous, and we have to drive a bit slower, this can allow for fires to grow to a larger size prior to firefighter arrival.

Another challenge is the hidden torrential dangers, like holes, drop-offs, or other obstacles, that snow can hide when you're on the scene of a fire. Additionally, if temperatures are low enough water used in suppression operations can freeze on the fireground, presenting a slipping hazard to firefighters.

Finally, because fighting fire in snow, or the cold in general, takes more of a physical toll, it increases the importance for rotating personnel into rehab more frequently; therefore calling for a larger response than it would under normal weather conditions.

Monday, February 15th: Univision 23 (Erika Torres Caraban) - I hope you are doing well and staying warm. Can you tell us how many calls your department responded to since midnight? Any calls due to carbon monoxide issues? Any calls about hypothermia? How many house fires, if any, have you guys responded to? Please let us know what other data from overnight and this morning you can provide us with so we can give our community a full breakdown of what has and is happening.

City Response - Apologies for the delay. What's accounted for most of our responses since midnight are "Automatic Fire Alarm" as a result of the power outages. In fact, since midnight DFR has responded to nearly 150 calls for automatic fire alarms.

We have also responded to 12 "Carbon Monoxide Detector" calls, all of which were determined to also be the result of power loss and no readings of the gas being present. For context, this is different than a "Carbon Monoxide Emergency" (which we have had zero calls for) where someone has called reporting the symptoms of Carbon Monoxide exposure.

Thankfully, people have been watching the news, and have stopped trying to navigate the roadways, as well have only responded to 8 accidents in that same time frame.

We've responded to 5 "Environmental Emergencies", 4 structure fires and 1 trash fire.

Monday, February 15th: WFAA 8 (Tiffany Liou) - Can you tell me how many carbon monoxide calls DFD has had from Friday (12th) thru Sunday (14th)?

City Response - Since Friday, we've responded to 31 CO "detector" calls, and 1 CO "emergency" call. The "emergency" involved a fatality at a residence on the 4600 block of Cedar Springs Road. Associated story can be seen at

<https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/carbon-monoxide-poisoning-highest-during-cold-weather-texas/287-3ce17235-a5af-4aa5-937e-674721b3f0bb>

Monday, February 15th: Univision 23 (Nathalie Palacios) - We know that people should not just call 911 if their power is out. However, what parameters would be circumstance enough to call 911? If they are showing signs of hypothermia or are without energy for their life saving medical devices, would this mean they can get transportation to a hospital or otherwise?

City Response - Someone becoming hypothermic would be a reason to call 911.

The answer for the other question depends on the circumstances. If the loss of power, and subsequent disabling of medical equipment, has caused a patient's chronic medical condition to escalate to a true medical emergency, then we'd encourage them to call 911. If the patient has exhausted their alternatives, but is not having a medical emergency, we'd encourage them to seek the services of a private non-emergency ambulance service before calling 911.

Monday, February 15th: NBC 5/Telemundo (Cynthia Garcia) - I hope all well and you're staying warm. Do you have any information on the fire at 3600 Lawnview in Dallas?

City Response - DFR units were dispatched to this one-alarm fire, at a home on the 3600 block of Lawnview Avenue, at 3:39 p.m.

According to the 911 caller, black smoke and flames could be seen coming from the garage of the small one-story wood-framed home; and according to DPD's Air 1, flames could be seen coming through the roof. It's unclear if anyone was in the home at the time of the fire, but there have been no injuries reported.

Firefighters had the fire extinguished in about an hour, but the home suffered significant damage. The cause of the fire is currently listed as undetermined.

Tuesday, February 16th: Sent the following information to all the local news desks
- On Monday, February 15th, at 9:55 p.m., Dallas Fire-Rescue units were dispatched to a 911 call for a structure at the Alua Apartments, located at 4300 Horizon North Parkway, in North Dallas.

When firefighters arrived at the three-story apartment building, they observed smoke coming from an apartment on the second floor. They made their way into the unit to find fire within the void spaces between the second and third floors as well as the wall spaces. Considering the weather conditions, the size of the structure and the inability to

visualize the extent of the fire, Command requested a second, and eventual third, alarm response. Fire made its way through the roof, forcing Command to pull all firefighters back, assuming a defensive posture. Approximately, 80 firefighters battled the fire, and the elements, well into the morning hours before declaring the fire extinguished around 2:30 a.m. However, crews remained on the scene the entire night/morning, conducting overhaul operations to ensure the flames had been completely extinguished, before clearing the scene around 9:00 a.m.

There were 24 units in the apartment building, and though only eight of them were reported to have suffered fire damage, all the units were left uninhabitable due to varying degrees of smoke and water damage. All residents evacuated the building safely, and there were no injuries reported. Firefighters were able to make it through the entirety of the operation thanks primarily to the efforts of the Box 4 Fire Buffs Organization being on scene and providing food, drinks and warming areas for first responders to take refuge in between rotations.

It is unclear the number of residents who were displaced as a result the fire, as most of them left for shelter with family and friends off-site, or sought refuge inside their vehicles; but property management is working with them to determine their needs going forward.

The extent of damage left the building unsafe for entry; and as a result the cause of the fire will be listed as undetermined. Custody of the building was passed back over to property management to determine what will ultimately happen to it.

