



Fax (802) 658-7665

Burlington Fire Department Office of the City Fire Marshal

132 NORTH AVENUE • BURLINGTON, VERMONT 05401



(TTY) (802) 865-7142

Plan Review and Inspection Services: (802) 864-5577

Public Information and Education: (802) 864-6923

www.burlingtonvt.gov/fire

MEDIA RELEASE

INCIDENT TYPE:	DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT:
Fire	Monday, 29 August 2016 at 1135
INCIDENT NUMBER:	LOCATION:
16-0004940	1562 North Avenue
AUTHOR:	CONTACT #:
BC Barry J. Simays, Fire Marshal	(802) 864-5577 x1

NARRATIVE:

On Monday, 29 August 2016 at 1135 hours, the Burlington Emergency Communications Center received a 9-1-1 call reporting a fire in the building at 1562 North Avenue. Engine 4, stationed at the corner of North Avenue and Staniford Road was the first fire department unit to arrive one minute later at 1136. On arrival, the crew found the one-story, wood-framed single-unit residential structure charged with smoke and fire visible in the kitchen. The incident commander called for a "working fire" assignment, bringing all 20 on-duty Burlington Fire Department personnel, command staff, and apparatus to the scene. The fire was extinguished with a single hose line and overhaul was completed to ensure that no hidden fire was present in the walls or attic of the structure.

No firefighters or civilians were injured during this incident. The Burlington Police Department provided traffic control at the scene. University of Vermont Rescue, Burlington Electric Department, and Vermont Gas also responded to the scene. The American Red Cross responded to provide relocation services for the one resident and infant child.

Preliminary damage estimates are \$8,000 for the property and \$2,000 for the contents. Property valuation is not available at the time of this release. Contents value is estimated at \$15,000. The property is owned and managed by Burlington Housing Authority as a residential rental unit. The resident did not have a renters insurance policy at the time of the fire.

The Burlington Fire Marshal's Office conducted the origin and cause investigation for this fire, and determined that a bag of tortilla chips located on the stove top ignited when the resident placed a pot of water on the stove to boil on the "high" burner setting. The resident left the kitchen unattended, only to return minutes later to find that a fire had ignited on the stove top. The resident collected her infant child, evacuated the building, and called 9-1-1 to report the fire. The building was equipped with hard-wired, interconnected photoelectric smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, which activated after the resident left the building due to their recognition of the fire before the alarms could activate.

Residents are reminded to be cautious and attentive while cooking. The number one cause for fires within residential occupancies in the United States continues to be cooking related incidents according to the United States Fire Administration. Pay particular attention to keeping stove tops clear of all combustible materials and avoid utilizing these spaces for storage. In addition, make sure that your home is equipped with working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and remember to immediately evacuate the residence and report the fire by dialing 9-1-1 should this type of event occur in your home.