

High response numbers for Atchison FD

(KAIR)--An active weekend for Atchison firefighters; and despite no major mishaps, the department responded to over 20 emergency calls in the city of Atchison.

Among them was a late Saturday morning fire in an unoccupied home.

Fire Chief Ted Graf told MSC News fire crews responded to the 621 North 4th Street address. "[We] were dispatched to an attic fire, with a significant amount of smoke present," Graf said. "The source of the smoke was found to be a smoldering floor joist in the attic. It was extinguished quickly, with fire crews remaining on the scene for just over an hour. The home is unoccupied, and under construction at this time. It's believed to be electrical, is going to be the cause of this fire."

The previous evening, the department worked an unusual fire report, involving a doghouse, located at a Q Street residence. "Crews were dispatched to 612 U Street for a report of a fire in the back yard. Upon arrival, there was a dog house and part of a wooden fence on fire. They met with the homeowner in the back yard, and he had most of the fire knocked down with a garden hose. They had to overhaul the dog house, basically they had to take it apart."

Graf says it's believed a fire pit in the yard of the home is to blame for the fire. "The dog house owner had actually put fresh straw in the dog house earlier that day. They had also used a fire pit at some point in time earlier that evening. It's believed that an ember from their fire pit may have sparked this fire."

On Saturday morning, crews made a different response, this time freeing a woman who became stuck in her bathroom. "The crews dispatched to Santa Fe Place Apartments, 801 Santa Fe, for a 61-year-old female who had become lodged in her bathroom, between the toilet and the vanity. The fire fighters determined that they would be unable to get her out, so it was going to be somewhat of a little bit of a difficult extrication on that. The fire fighters had to remove portions of the toilet and the vanity to free her."

Graf says the rescue serves as a reminder for the need to check on family members who are home bound. "We have people that fall quite frequently, and lay, literally, on the floor or on the ground for hours, before they can make it to the phone. Or, somebody calls and checks on them and then finds them in that condition."

Following the rescue, the woman was transported to the Atchison Hospital for

precautionary reasons.

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