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Man Rescued from Blazing Bedroom **Space Heater Cause of Morning Fire**

(Washington, DC) – DC Firefighters are credited with saving the life of a 66-year-old man who was pulled from his smoke and fire filled bedroom this morning. The man, who is not being identified, was located in bed on the second floor of a two-story row house. Members of Rescued Squad 2 were able to find the man, who was initially unconscious, and bring him downstairs, where he regained consciousness and is expected to survive.

Fire & EMS responded at 4:22 AM for the report of a house on fire in the unit block of Gallatin Street, Northwest. First arriving companies discovered fire and smoke issuing from the rear of the second floor of the home and immediately went to the interior to search for victims and attack the blaze. While searching on the second floor, members of Rescue Squad 2 found the man and quickly removed him. The fire was quickly knocked down by Engines 24 and 14 with no other injuries reported.

Fire investigators determined the space heater was placed too close to the mattress, and the radiant heat ignited the bed. A damage estimate was placed at \$120,000. Further investigation found that there were no working smoke alarms in the home. Were it not for a passerby who noticed smoke, the rescued man would almost certainly have perished in the fire.

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It is recommended that space heater use be rigidly monitored. It is critical to give space heaters at least three feet of room on all sides and that all cords are inspected frequently for fraying or wear. Further, space heaters should be turned off when not being used. What is unclear is whether a kerosene heater found on the first floor was being used. That particular heater was not connected to the fire, but the use of any fueled space heater is illegal in the District.

It is critical that every home be equipped with a working smoke alarm placed on each level of the residence. In the District, every household is entitled to a free smoke alarm by calling (202) 673-3331 or by visiting their local firehouse.

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