

On Saturday, April 15, 2023, at about 11:50 AM Public Safety responded to a report of a fire on Chicomacomico Way. The fire, reported by an alert neighbor, was in a two-story residential structure. The first Public Safety Officer (PSO) to arrive on the scene discovered a rapidly growing fire on the outside wall of a crofter. The heat from the fire had already caused a second-floor window directly above the fire to break. This opened a pathway for the fire to possibly spread to the second floor. The officer who arrived on the scene was in a Quick Response Vehicle (QRV) equipped with a fire extinguishing system used primarily for small trash or vegetation fires. He was able to keep the flames in check using the suppression system until additional personnel could arrive and extinguish the fire.

Crews discovered an activated sprinkler head when they made entry to the first floor which minimized fire spread inside of the structure. **The actions of an alert neighbor calling 911, and the activation of the sprinkler head both contributed greatly** to the efficient response by Bald Head Island Public Safety personnel and the volunteer firefighters.

We take lessons from every incident and this one had some educational components:

- We encourage households to have a monitored alarm system
- Have your sprinkler systems inspected annually
- It is helpful to have your address numbers in a contrasting color to the house trim color to aid in locating specific addresses
- Purchase a Knox Box or examine existing Knox Boxes for rust or corrosion

For further information on Fire Prevention, Inspections and Education, Public Safety Officer Chip Sudderth can be contacted, csudderth@villagebhi.org