



## Press Release July 5, 2019

On 07/05/2019 at 2:46 am, St. Anthony Police and Fire units received a call of fire alarms sounding at the Equinox Apartments located in the 2800 block of Silver Lane in the City of St. Anthony. Upon arrival, police personnel searched the building and located an active fire in the hallway on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the three story complex.

Police and Fire personnel immediately began evacuating residents. An adult female and her small child were safely removed from the effected apartment. An occupant of one adjacent unit was rescued from a third floor balcony and several others were escorted out to safety. As a precaution, several residents and first responders were evaluated at the scene by HCMC paramedics for smoke and heat related concerns. There were no injuries reported to any apartment residents or first responders.

Assistance via mutual aid was provided by Columbia Heights, Fridley, New Brighton, Roseville and Lake Johanna Fire Departments. A life safety unit trailer from West Metro Fire was also dispatched to the scene along with a Metro Transit bus. The Red Cross responded to the scene to assist residents with any immediate needs. One unit was directly affected by fire and 7 others by smoke and water damage.

The fire appeared to be suspicious in nature. As a result, the Minnesota State Fire Marshal's Office was contacted, along with Hennepin County Crime Lab. Investigators from both agencies worked in conjunction with St. Anthony Police and Fire personnel to investigate the incident.

This incident remains an active investigation as we attempt to determine the cause of the fire. All indications point to the fire being an intentional act. A reward of up to \$5000 is being offered for information leading to the identification of the person/persons responsible. If you have any information, you are strongly encouraged to call the following:

Arson Hotline: 1-800-723-2020

Crime Stoppers Minnesota: 1-800-222-8477

St. Anthony Police Department: 612-782-3350 or 952-258-5321