



# SALEM FIRE-EMS NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – February 20, 2014

## STRUCTURE FIRE AT 1778 SALEM COMMONS LANE RULED ACCIDENTAL

The Salem Fire Marshal has ruled that the recent fire at 1778 Commons Lane at the Salem Commons apartment complex was accidental in nature and that it was caused by improperly discarded smoking materials.

The Salem Fire & EMS Department responded to the structure fire at the apartments on Friday, February 14, at approximately 3:36 p.m. All residents who were in the building at the time of the fire were able to escape without injury, but the entire building sustained heavy fire damage throughout the third floor and the whole building sustained water damage. In all, the fire damaged 20 apartments and displaced more than 40 residents.

The first unit arrived within four minutes of receiving the call and found heavy smoke and fire coming through the roof. It took firefighters a little over an hour to contain the blaze. Approximately 38 personnel from the Salem Fire & EMS Department (Engine 1, Engine 2, Engine 3, Medic 802 & Medic 803), the Roanoke Fire & EMS Department (Engine 4, Engine 5, Engine 13, Ladder 5 & Medic 5) and the Salem Rescue Squad (Squad 1) responded to the call. Roanoke Fire & EMS Department (Engine 8) and the Roanoke County Fire & Rescue Department (Wagon 9) assisted with handling additional City of Salem emergency calls.

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