



**HAGERSTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**CITY OF HAGERSTOWN**  
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**FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM EXTINGUISHES APARTMENT FIRE**

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At 4:45 pm today, the Hagerstown and Maugansville Fire Departments were alerted to a fire in an apartment at the Reserve at Collegiate Acres apartment complex on Buckeye Circle in Hagerstown. Responding units arrived to find the buildings fire alarm system activated and occupants evacuating the building. Occupants reported a fire in a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor kitchen apartment which had been extinguished by the buildings fire sprinkler system. Fire Department units checked that the fire was fully extinguished, shut off the sprinkler system, and worked to contain the remaining water.

Hagerstown City Fire Marshal's office investigated the incident and found that a pot of grease on the stove top caught fire. The fire spread from the stove top into the exhaust fan and cabinets above the stove. The occupants found the burning pot and attempted to remove the burning pot. At this point the building's fire sprinkler system activated and fully extinguished the fire.

"This new 28 unit apartment building would most likely have suffered significant damage, displacing much or all of the occupants without the fire sprinkler system," stated Hagerstown Fire Marshal Doug DeHaven. "We have had too many large fires recently in this area. Today, we saw the importance of working smoke alarms, which activated alerting the apartment occupants of the fire; the fire sprinkler system, which extinguished a growing fire in the apartment; and the buildings fire alarm that alerted others within the building and notified the fire department." All fire department units cleared the fire scene at 6 pm after the sprinkler system and fire alarm was restored.

Fire Marshal DeHaven continued, "This is a great way to lead into Fire Prevention Week in Hagerstown, a success story after seeing so many serious fires in recent months."

The Hagerstown Fire Department wants to remind everyone that Fire Prevention Week is next week and this a good time to inspect and test your smoke alarms. This year's Fire Prevention Week theme, "***Don't Wait – Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 years***" is a good reminder for residents to check their smoke alarms and replace those that are 10 years or older. City residences needing assistance with checking their smoke alarms can contact the Hagerstown Fire Department at 301-790-2476 for assistance.