

https://www.breezejmu.org/news/fire-breaks-out-at-southview-apartments/article_fd80ee4e-5176-11e9-92a0-4f9377c8e0c3.html

Fire breaks out at Southview Apartments

news desk Mar 28, 2019



A fire has broken out in Southview Apartments.

Heather Eckstine | The Breeze

A fire broke out in the 1000 block of Lois Lane at Southview Apartments. It has since been contained, according to a [tweet from the Harrisonburg Police Department](#).



The Breeze
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#BREAKING | Fire reported in southview.

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pic.twitter.com/KXkEgPjmE9



29 11:23 AM - Mar 28, 2019

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At this time officials are unable to make an official statement as to what caused the fire. They ask that anyone living in the complex to check in at the clubhouse so they know everyone is accounted for and alright.

I.J. Bennett, Harrisonburg Fire Department's fire chief, said when addressing the media that the fire started at the back of the building and moved to the attic. There is one confirmed death of a cat. It is unknown at this time if any other pets are OK.

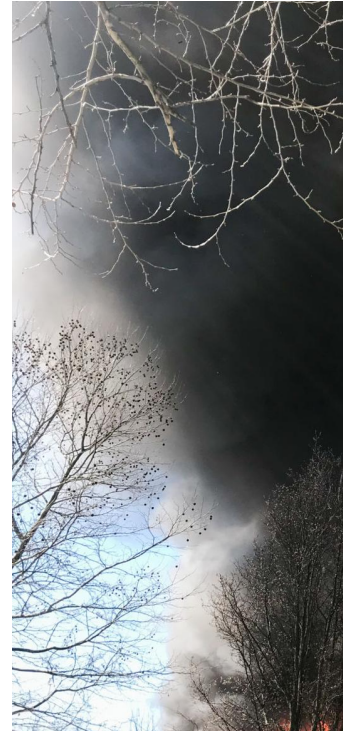
Of the buildings affected, two buildings on the inside are uninhabitable and those on the outside (left and right) only possessed exterior damages. It's unclear which buildings specifically were affected.

Slideshow: Fire at Southview Apartments

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Tristan Lorei | The Breeze



An email from University Communications confirms the fire occurred shortly after noon. Students leasing in building 1083 have been accounted for. The email states those living in buildings 1073, 1083 and 1093 have been asked to check in at the clubhouse on 1070 Lois Lane.

As of right now, it looks like no one was injured. Officials also ask to check the police and fire department Facebook and Twitter for updates and to retweet to get the word out and help those affected.

“I was just hanging out in my room and then I heard kind of like a large explosion, and then, I opened my front door to see what was happening and I saw people running out, so then I grabbed my backpack and computer and just a few things to get, grab and go,” Tommy Biagini, senior graphic design major said. “And then, I just kind of came out in the front and saw that the building next to us was kind of engulfed, and then, we were asked to move back.”

Sam Pham, junior health science major called the fire department when she saw the fire. She was at the bus stop around noon when she saw “a light smoke that came out.” She noticed that a fire alarm wasn’t going off and heard a “boom and then a rush of black smoke came out.”

According to the Office of Residence Live, the Harrisonburg police department called them and said that Southview will be arranging temporary housing for students. It is not yet known where that will be.

There is additionally a [GoFundMe](#), organized by Courtney Brogna, to help the Dukes in need. As of 3:12 p.m. it has raised \$21,445 by 1,338 people. The GoFundMe page was also updated at 2:46 p.m. to inform JMU students of a free dinner to be hosted tonight in Madison Union room 304 from 7-8 p.m. The dinner was organized by the Muslim Student Association and the page urges students to inform those impacted by the fire.

Additionally, a donation drive is being held at 865 Port Republic Road and is accepting nonperishable goods, toiletries, school supplies and clothing for students.

The counseling center is at the scene to offer support to anyone who needs it. They also ask that students come to them with any help they need. The center is open from Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Its walk-in hours are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. or students can make an appointment in advance.

For those who live on or near Devon Lane, expect traffic. The street is additionally blocked off about half-way down near the Foxhill's clubhouse.

UPDATE(March 28, 4:26 p.m.): Harrisonburg Fire Chief Bennett addressed the media around 2:30 p.m., stating that all residents evacuated the buildings safely. According to a firefighter, when responders arrived at the scene, they began opening doors and several animals immediately fled the flaming building.

Animals may be wandering around the area. Anicura veterinarians advise everyone to not chase the animals since they went through a high-stress situation. The death of a cat in one of the buildings that caught fire has been confirmed.

According to Bennett, the fire began at the back of the building and rose to the attic, destroying the third floor of apartment building 1083. No specific cause of the fire has been identified yet.

In response to the fire, the university will be setting up programs for textbook and supply replacement, computer loans and short-term cash loans according to University Communications. Students will also be offered housing at local apartments and the university will offer on-campus housing. The university will work with students to accommodate for missed classes due to the incident. Assistance will be available for those without meal plans as well.

Story will be updated as information comes in. Follow @TheBreezeJMU on Twitter for more updates.

Abby Church, Shanna Kelly, Ivan Jackson, Katelyn Waltemyer and Connor Murphy contributed to this report.

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https://www.breezejmu.org/news/community-rallies-around-those-affected-by-southview-fire/article_118bf2ee-519a-11e9-b0aa-cf235f24c55e.html

Community rallies around those affected by Southview fire

Shanna Kelly | The Breeze Mar 28, 2019



Local restaurants have donated food to those affected by the fire.

Ivan Jackson | The Breeze

After the devastating fire in Southview that started around noon today, the community is quickly coming together in an effort to help those affected.

Right now, Southview residents can go to the clubhouse for Bojangles, Benny's, Dominos, Chick-fil-A, McDonalds, Pizza Hut and Buffalo Wild Wings. Red Cross caseworkers are coming from Charlottesville and will be in the clubhouse shortly to help students with financial needs and to gather student contact information. Students can also find members of the counseling center here who are available to talk or help make appointments.

The counseling center has been here since around 1 p.m. to support in any way they can. Carolyn Strack, a psychologist at the counseling center has been on the scene to help.



"We're just here to offer support — a place to talk," Strack said. "We know this is a stressful time of year, and this is another stressful event ... We're going to make an effort to sort of identify students who have been directly impacted by this and try and reach out."

Going forward, students are encouraged to talk to counselors. The center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Students can make an appointment in advance or come in during their walk-in hours, which are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The counseling center additionally asked Father Peter Nassetta from the Catholic Campus Ministry to come and offer students support. According to Nassetta, interfaith chaplains met with the police department, Tim Miller and the counseling center, which likely inspired them to reach out.

"People's faith comes into play, and what's happening and why God allowed this," Nassetta said. "I think people are mostly just in shock. Right now, they're just kind of processing."

Nassetta said that most of the students he's had the chance to talk with so far have been checking in with friends and are thankful they were required to get renters insurance this year. According to Nassetta, someone who lives in the house for the Knights of Columbus said that they have room or will make room for those looking for a place to stay.

Nassetta stresses the importance of not only checking in with friends but continuing to do so. He compared it to when someone passes away.

"To me, it seems like, you know, they often say when somebody dies, you know you have so much support around you, and then, everybody's gone, and you're living with the loss," Nassetta said. "There's going to be people living with a lot of loss."

Hailey Ciolino, junior architectural design major, is one of the students who came to the scene in support of those affected.

"I'm just so heartbroken for everyone," Ciolino said. Ciolino's roommate is a friend of someone whose apartment was affected. "She has lost everything ... I think that everyone needs to pitch in and try and figure out a way to help these students because they don't have homes or, like, clothes anymore or anything, and it's just so sad because we're literally in college, so it's gonna be hard to recover from all this."

The food in the clubhouse and the counseling center's support are just some of the community's efforts so far.

A [GoFundMe](#) was set up by Courtney Brogna, senior hospitality management major, to help the Dukes in need. As of 3:54 p.m. it has raised over \$25,000 from over 1,500 people and has been shared 5.7 thousand times. Students can donate and spare the page through social media to encourage people to donate.

At this time, Southview is accepting non-monetary donations. They will be open until at least 6 p.m. at Panera Bread, Delta Phi Epsilon will be having a proceeds night from 4-8 p.m. and the JMU Muslim Students Association is hosting a dinner at 7 p.m. in Madison Union 304 for anyone affected.

Apartment complexes such as 865 East and The Hills are collecting donations such as clothes, food and toiletries. Student Government Association and Women of Color will also be accepting donations such as body wash, feminine hygiene products, blankets and more. Donations will be

accepted in the SGA office in Madison Union. Some resident's advisers are additionally walking around with donation boxes and more are expected to be on the Quad.

Here's a growing list of additional community donation efforts:

To Write Love on Her Arms: Outrigger's office

JMU Army ROTC: Memorial

JMU Alpha Phi Omega: TDU

JMU Phi Alpha Delta: Madison Union 404

JMU Phi Sigma Pi: 557 South Mason

JMU Phi Epsilon Kappa: TBD

JMU Gamma Phi Beta: FSL office

JMU Hillel: TBD

JMU Panhellenic Council: FSL office

JMU Delta Phi Epsilon: Carrier Library, Rose Library, Grafton Theater

JMU Theta Tau: Festival

SGA and Women of Color: Madison Union 331

JMU Alpha Delta Pi: FSL office and ADPi house

Club lacrosse: TBD

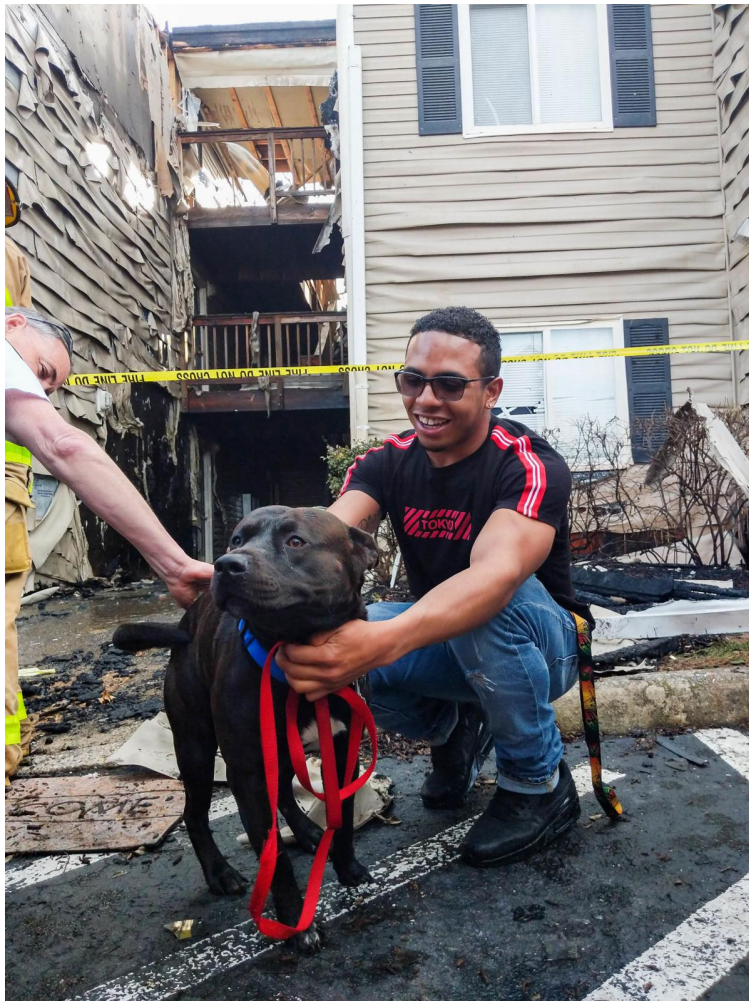
Contact Shanna Kelly at breezypress@gmail.com. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.

https://www.breezejmu.org/news/dog-rescued-after-southview-fire/article_2379df48-51b3-11e9-844f-7b7b98bd8c35.html

Dog rescued after Southview fire

news desk Mar 28, 2019

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Tristan Lorei | The Breeze

Harrisonburg resident Daniel Hernandez was downtown eating when a Snapchat came across his phone informing him his apartment was on fire — his dog was inside.

His roommate wasn't able to get Echo, the dog, out of the apartment. While Hernandez was unsure of where Echo was or if he was alive, Hernandez figured he was one of the dogs that ran away when firefighters entered the apartment.

"Turns out, he was in the apartment, I guess the whole three, four hours that they were trying to water it down," Hernandez said.



Hernandez said fire marshals insisted that no one was inside.

"I'm like, just check one more time, please. Like, I know he's in there, he's real quiet," Hernandez said.

The firemen checked, and as it turns out, while Lois Lane was filled with fire trucks and chaos, Echo was hiding in the bathtub of the apartment.

"You know, I was scared, he was scared, he's still kind of scared right now," Hernandez said.

Contact Shanna Kelly at breezypress@gmail.com. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.