

NOV 26 2003

LOCAL AND REGIONAL

Fire damages Breck condo

BRECKENRIDGE — Red, White and Blue and Lake Dillon firefighters credit a smoke detector for saving the lives of two residents in a Mill Run condominium in Warrior's Mark early Tuesday morning.

According to Red, White and Blue public information officer Mike Roll, the smoke detector awakened the residents, who were able to escape and call 911.

Eleven firefighters from Breckenridge arrived to find smoke coming from a window and the eaves of the manager's unit.

An interior fire attack crew battled smoky conditions and extinguished a fire in a second-story bathroom. Initial inspections indicate the fire might have been started by a candle that ignited towels on plastic shelving.

Other firefighters, including some from Lake Dillon Fire-Rescue's Frisco station, searched the first floor and roof for any possible fire extension.

Finding none, they joined the attack crew to protect the rest of the structure.

Roll said heavy smoke and heat damage occurred in the upstairs portion of the unit. The smoke detector was subjected to so much heat, it melted into a twisted blob of plastic.

"From the condition of the smoke detector, you can see just how hot and smoky it got in this condo," said Red, White and Blue fire inspector Jackie Pike. "Had it not have been there, things could easily have turned tragic. This is another great example of how

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FIRE: Smoke detectors save lives

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having a working smoke detector made things safer for everyone involved: residents, neighbors and firefighters."

Tight tongue-and-groove construction contained much of the heat, Roll said.

"It was pretty tightly constructed," he said. "There was a lot of wood. If it hadn't self-vented (the heat broke an upstairs window and released the smoke), it could have very easily been much worse."

The smoke detector also saved valuable time because the residents were able to let firefighters know there were no other occupants in the building, Roll said.

Firefighters were then able to concentrate their efforts on fighting the fire and protecting nearby buildings.

Although there was heavy damage to two bedrooms, the bathroom and a hallway at the rear of the house, a building inspector from the town determined that a loft area in the front of the house was still habitable, so the residents don't have to move out.



Special to the Daily/Carl Scofield
The temperature in a Mill Run condo fire in Warrior's Mark was so hot, it melted the smoke detector into a twisted blob of plastic.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 26, 2003



Diane Edelman
Summit County Christian

SNOW SHOWERS
Highs: 20s
Lows: 0-9
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SUMMIT COUNTY COLORADO