

Candle blamed for \$150K blaze

A candle left lit in a bedroom caused a \$150,000 house fire on Christmas Day.

Occupants of a single family home on Church St. West in Acton called 911 after being alerted to a bedroom fire by a smoke alarm. On arrival Halton Hills Fire Department crews found flames shooting out of the window of a bedroom at the front of the home, but the eight occupants of the home had safely escaped.

The male and female homeowners were taken to hospital for smoke inhalation from attempting to extinguish the fire as well as a firefighter suffering physical stress fighting the fire. All were released a short time later.

At the same time, Georgetown firefighters responded to the Bennett Galleria on Halton Hills Dr. after a fire alarm activation. When fire crews arrived carbon monoxide (CO) readings were found higher than acceptable and immediately began ventilation procedures for every floor and individual apartment. Residents were gathered in the ground floor common area.

While ventilating the structure, fire crews found a roof top heat exchanger unit was malfunctioning and as part of that the CO was inadvertently being pushed through the building. Once disconnected, ventilation practices continued and conditions improved.

Even though the one heat exchanger



The Fire Department estimates \$150,000 damage to this home on Church St. W. in Acton after a fire on Christmas Day.

Photo by Cynthia Gamble

was out of service, the building continued to be heated and each apartment had its own heating system so there is no negative impact to the residents until the appropriate repairs are completed.

All residents were allowed to return to their rooms once their floor and individual apartments were cleared of the CO levels.

As a precaution only, one male resident was taken to Georgetown Hospital because he was showing minor symptoms of CO inhalation but was later released.

“At both these incidents, detection devices for smoke and carbon monoxide alerted residents to dangerous situations and were responsible for saving lives,” said Mayor Rick Bonnette, in a press release on Boxing Day.

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