



Lower Providence Township

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Family Credits Fire Prevention Education

LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP (December 10, 2010) – While a house fire Thursday in the 400 block of Ashley Circle heavily damaged the home, the situation could have been much worse. The family credits tips learned from fire prevention education in school and from the local fire company from preventing further tragedy.

Lower Providence Township Volunteer Fire Company, Lower Providence Township Emergency Medical Services and Lower Providence Police responded to the fire early Thursday morning. At 4:32 a.m., Montgomery County Emergency Dispatch Services received a 911 call from a resident reporting that his house was on fire and that he and his two children had evacuated to their vehicle parked outside. Lower Providence Township Police arrived within minutes to find fire rolling out a garage window and the residence filling with smoke. Confirmation was made that the occupants were either at work or sheltering inside the vehicle. It was reported that two cats were still inside the residence.

The fire company initiated fire suppression with the assistance of Jeffersonville and Skippack volunteer fire companies. The fire was under control within 22 minutes and was contained to the garage, however, the residence received substantial smoke damage. The six occupants of the residence were provided temporary housing by the American Red Cross Disaster Response Team. The two felines were located and required medical treatment on scene by Lower Providence Emergency Medical Services.

The occupants reported that they were asleep and alerted to the fire by the sounds of working smoke detectors throughout their residence. They said they had checked their detectors during the fall time change. During their evacuation of the residence, they felt doors before opening them and when they felt the garage door was hot, they did not open it, but took an alternate path out of the residence. By not opening the hot door, they avoided being directly exposed to the fire and additional smoke and prevented an additional supply of oxygen to fuel the fire. The occupants reported they learned these tips from fire prevention education in school and the local fire company.

A joint investigation by Lower Providence Township Fire Marshals, Lower Providence Township Code Department and the Montgomery County Detectives revealed the origin of the fire to be in or near a space heater located in a tool room inside the garage. The cause is undetermined.

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