



## ***IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

### **FIRE DESTROYS HOME IN LOWER PROVIDENCE**

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP** (*January 10, 2012*) – On Monday, January 9, 2012 at 7:20 pm, Montgomery County Emergency Dispatch Services received a 911 call from a 17-year-old resident of 2011 Windsor Drive, Lower Providence Township who reported the dryer was on fire inside the residence. The call was immediately followed by a second 911 call from a next door neighbor reporting the neighbor's house was on fire.

Lower Providence Township Volunteer Fire Company and Collegeville Fire Company were dispatched, along with Lower Providence Township Police and EMS. Norristown and Jeffersonville Fire Companies were summoned to assist as well.

Lower Providence Township Police Corporal Michael Slattery arrived at the residence within four minutes to find the 53-year-old father and 17-year-old daughter outside the residence with their three canines. Cpl. Slattery said the overhead garage door was open and he could observe heavy fire in the laundry room off the garage. Upon arrival of fire apparatus, fire had spread upwards into the second floor and across into the garage, reaching a vehicle parked in the driveway.

Lower Providence Township Fire Marshal, Charles DeFrancesco, interviewed the residents. The father reported he had been doing wash for approximately 30-45 minutes when he heard a pop sound coming from the laundry room. Upon investigation, he initially observed smoke coming from behind the side-by-side washer & dryer. He used one extinguisher and believed he had extinguished the fire. After alerting his daughter, they both started to overhaul the area and opened doors and windows. They also started two fans in an attempt to extract the smoke from the residence. At some point after that, the father returned to the laundry room to find the fire had spread up the wall and across the ceiling of the laundry room. It was at this point, the daughter called 911 to report the fire.

Under the Command of Lower Providence Fire Chief, Bryan McFarland, the fire was brought under control in one-hour, twenty minutes, utilizing nine fire apparatus and forty-five personnel. Crews continued to overhaul and clean-up until 12:30 am.

The owner received burns to his left hand that did not require treatment. There were no injuries to fire personnel. The Residence was insured for over \$660,000.00 (structure and contents) and received major damage.

PECO responded to secure the utilities, while the American Red Cross Western Montgomery County Disaster Action Team responded to assist the residents with lodging and Total Restoration of Royersford responded to secure the residence.

On Tuesday, January 10, 2012, a team of investigators conducted an Origin and Cause investigation. Participants were from the Lower Providence Fire Marshal's Office, the Lower

Providence Police Department, Lower Providence Volunteer Fire Company, Montgomery County Detective's Bureau and the PA State Police.

The fire is determined to be accidental at this time, with the origin in the laundry room related to an electrical event.

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