

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



Off-duty firefighter rescues teenagers from burning home

Sunday, 5 August 2012

A Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) firefighter has rescued two teenagers who were trapped inside a burning home in Adelaide's south this morning.

The firefighter was driving home from a night shift when he noticed smoke and fire in the distance. He traced the fire to a Sheidow Park home and called '000' to alert fire crews.

Senior Firefighter, Tony Mills said the garage and one end of the home were well involved in fire. From outside the home, he managed to communicate with two teenagers who were trapped inside.

"They were calling out in distress and I yelled out to ask them to stand back while I used a star dropper to smash a window and clear the glass from the sill," he said.

Senior Firefighter Mills then pulled the teenagers through the window to safety. MFS crews arrived and took about 30 minutes to extinguish the fire, which destroyed the home.

"It is devastating for this family to have lost their home. However, I'm very glad that a firefighter happened to be in the right place when this incident occurred to be able to rescue the teenagers. Another few minutes and the outcome might have been very different," Senior Firefighter Mills said.

MFS Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Michael Morgan commended the firefighter for his efforts.

"On behalf of the fire service, I'd like to express how proud we are of Senior Firefighter Mills for his bravery today. Losing a home is a very distressing experience for a family, but the loss of a child or children would be extremely difficult to come to terms with.

"We are so pleased for this family that they have not lost a loved one," Assistant Chief Fire Officer Morgan said.

MFS and SAPOL Fire Cause Investigators have found the fire's cause was accidental but undetermined. Damage is estimated at \$300,000.

Senior Firefighter Mills said members of the public should never enter a burning building to attempt a rescue.

"Firefighters are specially trained to perform rescues and to take calculated risks. Members of the public should not attempt to enter a burning building. Instead, they should call '000' for assistance."

The MFS said the fire is a reminder to all households to have *and practise* a **Home Fire Escape Plan**. A plan includes having working smoke alarms and establishing the main and (if possible) secondary exit routes from every room. Security measures should not prevent your exit from a burning home.

For more information about a Home Fire Escape Plan, call the MFS on 1300 737 637 during office hours or visit www.mfs.sa.gov.au

For media enquiries and interviews call the MFS Media Line on (08) 8204 3770

www.mfs.sa.gov.au