



FIRE & RESCUE

CITY OF CLEARWATER

POST OFFICE BOX 4748, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33758-4748
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RELEASE 12-010

January 14, 2012

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ELECTRICAL MALFUNCTION ON HEATER CORD CAUSES FIRE

WHO: Derek Ayers (Resident/Renter)
DOB: 7-2-62

Kathleen Smith (Owner)
DOB: 12-23-24

WHAT: Structure Fire- Residential

WHEN: January 14, 2012
7:21 a.m.

WHERE: 911 Engman Street
Clearwater, Fla.

SUMMARY: Clearwater Fire & Rescue responded to a structure fire at 911 Engman Street. When firefighters arrived, the structure was fully involved with smoke and flames showing. All three occupants (husband, wife and son) were out of the home, uninjured.

Fire Investigators determined that the fire originated in the bedroom and was caused by an electrical malfunction overload or failure of wiring on the cord to a portable heater.

The home is a loss and damage is estimated at \$58,000. Red Cross is assisting the displaced family.

As general information for colder weather, Clearwater Fire & Rescue recommends:

- Create a three-foot zone around portable heaters and keep flammable materials (curtains, bedspreads, etc.) away from





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contact. Turn heaters off when you leave the room or go to bed.

- Inspect cords for fraying or damage.
- Check smoke alarms to make sure they are working properly.
- Have home heating equipment inspected annually.
- Never use an oven to heat your home.

