



# Champions Emergency Services District

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30 July 2024

## **ALERT PASSERSBY NOTICE SMOKE FROM HOUSE – FIREFIGHTERS SAVE TWO**

Two minutes before midnight on Monday, July 29, 2024, a driver noticed what appeared to be smoke coming from the back of a house in the Champions subdivision and turned around to investigate further. Noting that the smoke seemed to be coming from inside the home, he called 911. The Champions, Klein, Little York, Northwest Fire Departments, and Harris County ESD 11 EMS units responded to the report, arriving to confirm a working fire in the structure. District Chief 10 arrived and assigned Klein Engine 32 for fire attack and Champions Engine 12 for primary search. District Chief 31 arrived and conducted a 360 survey of the structure. Engine 12 crew made entry and immediately encountered near zero visibility conditions, beginning their search of the residence. Engine 12 crew located the fire on the Bravo side of the structure and reported its location to Engine 32, which was making entry with a hose line. Engine 12 continued their search and soon heard a faint cry from the rear of the home. The crew refocused their search toward the sound. Engine 12 battled lights-out conditions until they located the open door to the master bedroom, where the officer scanned with a Thermal Imaging Camera and identified two persons on the bed. The three-person crew was able to assist one occupant, who was still conscious, and drag the second occupant, who was breathing but incoherent, back to the front entry, where they met with EMS and were subsequently transported to the hospital for smoke inhalation. Both occupants were removed from the home within two minutes of being located.

The fire was quickly extinguished, and crews searched the remainder of the building. Smoke was removed from the structure. This incident highlights several important takeaways to share:

1. Keep working smoke detectors. Smoke detectors can alert occupants to danger before conditions deteriorate beyond self-evacuation.
2. Close your door when you sleep. A closed door can significantly prevent smoke from spreading into sleeping areas and maintain air quality to sustain life. In short, it can buy significant time in a fire. For further information on this topic, visit <https://closeyourdoor.org/>
3. Even small fires can produce thick, toxic smoke. Due to the increased use of synthetics and the lack of a supply of fresh oxygen, fires in homes produce a great deal of harmful and toxic particulates and gases so thick that you can't even see through.