

Fire on Texas State Campus

Maci Gambrell

Qds15@txstate.edu

SAN MARCOS- A fire broke out at a Texas State University dorm Jackson Hall Thursday morning, causing a building wide evacuation on Thursday morning and \$10,000 in total damages according to campus police.

The San Marcos Fire Department put out 10-foot-tall flames in a single dorm room after a student pulled the fire alarm around 10:30 a.m. All students evacuated the building without injury. The fire started after an unattended candle left in a dorm room caught a curtain on fire. Police and firefighters were able to contain the fire in 45 minutes and no injuries were reported.

Dorm resident and student Emily Rodriguez, 19, of San Marcos, first reported the fire after smelling smoke from the hallway.

“Towards the end of the hall I saw smoke coming out from under one of the rooms, but I couldn’t tell which one,” Rodriguez said. “I knocked on my friend’s door and she told me I should pull the fire alarm while he ran to tell one of the RAs, so I did.”

Emergency responders arrived shortly after receiving the call about the fire on campus. While the police officers set up a perimeter to keep students at a safe distance from the building, local firefighter Donald Jones, 45, of San Marcos, and his team rushed inside.

“We were lucky that the fire was still contained to the single dorm when we arrived, but the flames were relatively large,” Jones said. “We were able to put out the fire swiftly and limit the damage as much as possible.”

The second story fire, while isolated to one room, did destroy a variety of costly objects in the building, campus police officer Peter Johnson, 41, of San Marcos explained.

“Right now, it's hard to tell how much damage was caused, but we could probably estimate the total loss at \$10,000, considering the students belongings, furniture and electrical wiring that will need to be replaced,” Johnson said.

Students were let back into the building after firefighters deemed the area safe to re-enter less than an hour following the incident.