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News Release

For Immediate Release

Response Efforts to Missouri Hotel Fire Continue

City officials are working with community agencies to continue recovery efforts following a fire at 2:18 a.m. at the Missouri Hotel. Fire Marshall Phil Noah deemed the fire accidental, but the cause investigation continues.

The 185 residents at the time of the blaze include 129 adults and 56 children. Three residents and three firefighters were treated and released at St. John's Hospital.

Two rooms on the second floor of the four-story building and hallway were completely destroyed by the blaze. There is smoke and water damage throughout the building.

Hotel executive director Rorie Orgeron said it could take anywhere from a few weeks to a few months before residents will be able to safely return to the homeless shelter.

In the meantime, residents were given immediate shelter at Crimson House down the street from the hotel and food and supplies from The Kitchen and Red Cross.

An emergency management response team, made up of various City and community agencies, continue planning for short-term and long-term needs of the residents.

Media are invited to a news conference at 2 p.m. today at the Office of Emergency Management, 833 N. Boonville for an update on these plans. Representatives from various agencies will be available for interviews.

"In times like this, our community comes together in impressive ways to support those in need," said City Manager Greg Burris. "We ask citizens at this time to think about what they would need if they woke up in the middle of night and were forced to leave their homes. Please consider providing cash to help The Kitchen and other agencies while these people are displaced."

Officials agree the most helpful response comes in the form of cash donations, although formula and diapers top the list of immediate needs. Those wishing to donate can call The Kitchen at 837-1500 or donate online at www.thekitcheninc.org.

For more information, contact Cora Scott, Director of Public Information and Civic Engagement, at 417-864-1009.