



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Front Street fire is under control, preparations under way to begin debris removal

GEORGETOWN COUNTY — A fire that ravaged part of Front Street in the City of Georgetown's Historic District this morning is under control and preparations are being made to begin cleaning out debris from the businesses that were destroyed.

The fire, which was reported at 5:23 a.m., caused severe damage to seven buildings on the 700 block of Front Street. An eighth building, the S.C. Maritime Museum, received smoke and water damage. It is reported that building had a sprinkler system, which worked correctly.

No major injuries were reported as a result of the fire. The origin and cause of the fire have not been determined.

The county is receiving reports of discolored water in the Georgetown area, likely as a result of firefighting activities. Residents can be assured this is not a water quality issue. The water is safe to drink, but officials say washing clothes with the discolored water is not advisable. The discoloration should end this afternoon when firefighting activities on Front Street are through.

Maryville residents were warned earlier in the day about impacts to their water service as a result of firefighting efforts, but they should be experiencing normal service now.

The American Red Cross and the Salvation Army are on scene and will offer assistance to victims of the fire. Monetary donations can be given to those agencies at www.salvationarmycarolinas.org/commands/georgetown or www.redcross.org.

The Bridge 2 Bridge Run and the Wooden Boat Show, both scheduled for next month in Georgetown, will go ahead as planned.

More than 100 emergency responders remain on the scene. In addition to Georgetown City Fire and Police departments, the following departments provided aid today: Georgetown County Fire/EMS, Midway Fire Rescue, the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office, the Town of Andrews Fire Department, Murrells Inlet-Garden City Fire and Rescue, the Coast Guard, Horry County Fire Rescue, the City of Conway Fire Department, the Johnsonville Fire Department, North Charleston Fire Department, Williamsburg County Fire Department, South Lynches Fire Department of Florence County, Myrtle Beach Fire Department and North Myrtle Beach Fire Department.

More information concerning the fire will be released as it becomes available.

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