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JOUR 225: News Story Assignment

A fire in the residential neighborhood of Oak Tree Heights in Boston caused a family of three to lose everything they own.

The Henderson family were at home with their dog when a fire broke out at 4:55 Monday morning due to a dryer malfunction. The family notes that they did not hear their smoke alarms go off but were able to safely evacuate their residence and make it across the street while their neighbor called 911. Their dog Jackie, a yellow lab collie mix escaped the blaze but has yet to be located.

The victims of the fire, Jennie and James Henderson who own a local bakery called, “Baking Boston,” and their teenage son Charlie, lost everything in the blaze, including irreplaceable family photos. All three family members were seen by Hillcrest Hospital and are reported uninjured. Father, James Henderson said, “We’re just thankful we made it out safely.”

Firemen from the Boston Fire Department arrived at 5:07 a.m. and were able to extinguish the flames after two hours of rigorous effort. Fire Chief Rick Ramirez reports this is one of 10 similar cases in his career where smoke alarms were not functioning.

Over the last six months there have been 10 reports of fires that have resulted in three deaths and six serious injuries. Nine of these were reported in residential neighborhoods all with various causes.

Staying vigilant with fire prevention is important. “That’s why on Saturdays, we hold fire safety classes that are free and open to the community,” says Chief Ramirez.

Although not all the Henderson family’s belongings can be easily replaced according to Jennie Henderson. “The worst part is losing our photos. Our memories were in that house.” If you would like to provide support to the Henderson family, there has been a GoFundMe page created to raise money to replace items lost in the fire.

Word Count: 312

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A malfunctioning dryer and defective smoke alarms causes a Boston family-of-three to lose all their belongings in a fire that broke out early Monday Morning. While the family made it out unharmed, it could have been a preventable accident. #BostonBurings

Character Count: 255