

Rockdale Citizen

Smoke causes RMC to evacuate floors

Aimee Jones
News Editor

Friday, February 13, 2009

CONYERS - Patients on two floors of Rockdale Medical Center were evacuated for a short time Thursday afternoon after smoke was seen coming through an air vent.

Rockdale County Deputy Fire Chief Mike Lee said the call came in sometime around 5:30 p.m. that smoke was detected on the third floor of the hospital. Firefighters responded and decided to evacuate the third and second floors as patients were there. He said the patients were moved to another area of the hospital, calling the effort a "horizontal evacuation."

The source of the smoke was believed to have been from the chiller on a small air-handling unit.

Marsha Terry, spokeswoman for Rockdale Medical Center, said a total of 55 patients were moved. No one was ever in danger and the steps taken were standard procedure, she said.

"As a precaution we moved some patients from the third floor and some on the second floor," Terry said. "In these instances, we always take these precautionary steps"

She said the patients were expected to be returned to their rooms by around 7 p.m.

In other fire news, Lee said firefighters were called around 6 p.m. to a structure fire on Elcar Drive in the Lakeview Estates subdivision. No further information was available as of press time Thursday.