

## Firefighters investigate cause of Restaurant Warehouse fire

Heather Rule  
hrule@postbulletin.com

The Austin Fire Department is investigating the cause of a fire Thursday in a second floor storage area of the Restaurant Warehouse Sales and Equipment.

The fire was in an area being used for storage of holiday decorations, said Bob Nelson, the owner of the business at 608 10th St. N.E. Firefighters removed a cardboard box from the building that was filled with a bale of hay that appeared to be partially burned. However, fire fighters were not yet sure of the cause, said Fire Chief Mickey Healey.

Lisa Nelson was the only one in the building at the time, she said she was answering phones when she noticed the smoke.

Bob Nelson said his son Sean, along with Chad Corporon, were outside but went in and saw some embers and tried to spray the fire with the fire extinguisher. But they got out of the building because of so much smoke.

"It was so black," Bob Nelson said.

The use of the fire extinguisher knocked the fire down, so when firefighters arrived on the scene the area was smoldering, Healey said. The fire department then focused on ventilation and containing the smoldering.

The fire department also responded to a call at apartment building 811 Third St. N.W. at 7:22 p.m. Thursday. Food was left unattended on the stove in apartment five.

It started to smoke, and a neighbor in the building called it in, Healey said. He also said there was no fire damage and no injuries.

About a half hour before the call came in, a resident of the apartment went to Mayo Clinic Health System - Austin for medical treatment. A stove inadvertently left on when the apartment was vacated appears to be the origin of the call.