

## Two Neighbors Rescue Man From House Fire

### HOWARD TAKEN TO HOSPITAL AFTER SMOKE INHALATION



By [Kate Ward](#)

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FAYETTEVILLE — Ken Braswell was driving through his neighborhood Tuesday morning when he saw a plume of smoke coming from a nearby home.

“At first I thought someone was burning trash,” he said. “But when I got closer, I realized it was coming from someone’s front door.”

Braswell and another neighbor entered the home at 1350 S. Mally Wagnon Road and found 85-year-old Elmer Howard crawling on the floor.

“It looked like he was trying to escape,” Braswell said. “We carried him over to the yard and put a coat on top.”

Fayetteville Battalion Chief Mauro Campos said Braswell, along with Fayetteville resident Rick Payne, waited with Howard until first responders arrived.

He said firefighters initially responded to the home at 8:48 a.m. for a medical call.

“When the crews arrived they realized they had a working house fire,” Campos said. “There were some bystanders who had pulled a gentleman from the front foyer of the house. Central EMS was already en route and treated him at the scene.”

Campos said Howard suffered minor burns, along with smoke inhalation.

He was taken to Washington Regional Medical Center, where he was listed in good condition Tuesday evening.

Firefighters called for additional assistance to extinguish the blaze, which caused smoke and fire damage to the front living room of the home.

The Fayetteville Fire Marshal’s Office listed the fire as accidental, but the cause is still under investigation.