



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 4, 2013

Tudor Circle Apartment Fire

At 9:38 p.m. on January 3, 2013, the Portage Department of Public Safety was dispatched to a reported apartment fire at 342 Tudor Circle. The initial caller reported that black smoke and flames were coming out a window on the top floor of the apartment building. A police unit arrived shortly thereafter and confirmed the report.

The first arriving fire engine reported orange flames and smoke coming from the northeast windows and began to lay a hand-line into the building to attack the fire. A second alarm was struck to recall off-duty personnel as well as mutual aid from Oshtemo, Texas Township, Comstock, and the City of Kalamazoo. Fire and police personnel evacuated the building as the second fire unit arrived and initiated the fire attack.

The main body of fire was suppressed in approximately five minutes, but multiple hot spots remained to be extinguished. A ceiling collapse occurred in the primary apartment, making it difficult to locate the small smoldering and burning spots. Fire had also spread to the attic and adjoining apartment.

A high-capacity insulation vacuum was brought in from the Oshtemo Fire Department to assist with removal of debris. Aerial apparatus from Portage and Oshtemo were set up to check for extension in the attic area. A fire wall helped stop extension of the fire with only residual smoke traveling into an adjoining roof area. The fire was declared under control in approximately one hour, but fire crews worked on overhaul until 4:00 a.m. on January 4, 2013.

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One resident was treated and released by ambulance personnel. The Red Cross assisted with finding temporary housing for some of the residents, while others located housing on their own. Several occupants were placed in the Residence Inn on East Kilgore. Forty-three people in total had to be relocated due to the fire. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation by a team of fire and police personnel. Anyone with information is asked to call the Portage Department of Public Safety at 329-4488 or Silent Observer at 343-2100, www.kalamazoosilentobserver.com.

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