



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Portage Department
of Public Safety
Fire Division
Battalion Chief
269-329-4491

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 13, 2015
Incident No. 509

At 11:02 a.m. on February 13, 2015, the Portage Department of Public Safety Fire Division responded to a report of a possible structure fire at 4218 Winthrop. While fire units were responding, Portage 911 dispatchers received reports from neighbors of gray smoke coming from the vents and eaves and later reports of flames in the window at the east front corner. The first engine to arrive on scene saw heavy gray smoke coming from the front window and the eaves. There was active fire coming from the front window on the east corner of the residence.

Neighbors stated that they had been knocking on the doors and could not get an answer. There were no vehicles in the driveway. They believed there to be one occupant, an elderly female, who was not home at the time.

The first crew pulled an attack line and knocked down the fire from the outside. The second crew advanced a hose line into the structure and into the fire room and completed extinguishment of the fire.

A primary search of the residence found no one home. Further search found that two birds and six dogs had been overcome by smoke. Initial fire investigation shows the fire to have started in the front corner bedroom and then extended down the hall.

Comstock Fire Department arrived on the scene and provided a rapid intervention team and assisted with reloading hose on apparatus. Texas Township and Oshtemo Fire Departments provided initial station coverage.

Fire loss has been estimated at \$60,000.00 to the structure and \$30,000.00 to the contents. There were no injuries reported.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Portage Department of Public Safety at 329-4567 or Silent Observer at 343-2100, www.kalamazoosilentobserver.com.

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