



CITY OF LOCKPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Incident: 4/2/2024 23:39 hours

Type of Incident: Fatal Residential Structure Fire

Location: 53 Crosby Ave.

Damage Estimate: \$40,000 - Property \$20,000 - Contents

Market Value of Property: \$58,000

Personnel: 9 on duty personnel, Second Alarm assignment, Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station as FAST, Lockport Police, Wrights Corners & South Lockport Fire Companies.

Narrative: Niagara County dispatched LFD for a residential structure fire with a reported victim trapped on the second floor. 9M10, E8, E6, & M62 responded under the direction of Assistant Chief Scapelliti. On arrival fire was visible venting out of the first floor window of the South side of the structure as well as thick black smoke venting from the eaves on all other sides of the structure. A rescue crew from Engine 8 was immediately deployed to the rear (west side) of the home to attempt entry into the second floor window via ladder, however they were met with heavy fire conditions upon breaking the window and were unable to enter. Simultaneously three hose lines were deployed, one to each window described above and a third deployed through the front door where crews attempted to get to the second floor, however it was discovered that the interior stair case had been burned away. Ultimately all crews were ordered out of the structure for safety concerns and an exterior operation ensued.

Hose lines operated for approximately 1 hour to bring the fire under control, at which time crews accessed the second floor of the home via ladders to perform a thorough search. The search revealed one deceased occupant found in the second floor bathroom. Several dogs were reported to be in the home also, only one was recovered already deceased.

Two fire personnel reported minor injuries during this incident, but remained on duty.

Fire suppression crews and fire investigation crews operated on scene for approximately 5 hours.

We are deeply saddened by this loss and we offer the family of the victim our deepest condolences.

Fire Cause: The fire is accidental in nature. Investigators believe a wood pellet stove near the base of the stairs on the first floor played a role in the fire ignition.