



CITY OF MUSCATINE
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PRESS RELEASE

MUSCATINE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Public Safety Building, 312 E. 5th Street, Muscatine, Iowa 52761
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 19, 2019

FIREFIGHTERS BATTLE FIRE, HEAT THURSDAY NIGHT

No injuries reported in apartment Thursday (July 18) in Muscatine

MUSCATINE, Iowa – No injuries were reported in an apartment fire Thursday (July 18) in Muscatine as fire crews fought not only the fire but the extreme heat.

The Muscatine Joint Communications Center (MUSCOM) received a 911 call at approximately 8:25 p.m. Thursday of smoke coming from the roof of the apartment building at 109 East 4th Street in Muscatine. The building is a six unit apartment managed by MCSA.

Initial reports were that some residents were still inside with smoke filling apartments, but everyone was out upon arrival by first responders. The fire was found in the attic that was filled with dark smoke and visible flames. Due to the weather conditions (earlier the heat index for Muscatine was reported to be 108) additional resources were called immediately.

Crews were able to knock down the fire after a few minutes but due to the extreme heat and smoke buildup the building was ventilated. The fire damage was contained to the attic, but there was water damage throughout the second floor and smoke smell throughout.

Fire officials rotated crews battling the fire to ensure that responders remained hydrated in the extreme heat conditions. The Salvation Army also provided water for the first responders.

The on scene investigation is complete, and although a cause has not been determined the fire does not appear to be intentional at this time. The fire and smoke loss estimate is approximately \$10,000 to the structure and contents. Multiple animals were in the house at the time of the fire, and all were reported to have been removed successfully.

There were no civilian or responder injuries. The Salvation Army was called to assist the residents who will be temporarily displaced.

The Muscatine Fire Department was assisted by the Fruitland Volunteer Fire Department and the Muscatine Police Department. Approximately 20 fire fighters responded to the fire, including off duty personnel.

About the Muscatine Fire Department:

The Muscatine Fire Department provides fire and emergency medical services, rescues (high angle, rope, water, etc.), building inspections, and public education for the City of Muscatine, and the surrounding unincorporated areas of Muscatine County with a combined population of 43,000 across 145 square miles while also providing HAZMAT for Muscatine, Louisa, Washington, Keokuk, and Henry counties. MFD firefighters and paramedics responded to 5,027 calls in 2018. The Muscatine Fire Department began as a volunteer fire company on January 7, 1875 and was established as a full-time department in January 1916. The Muscatine Fire Department ambulance service received the 2012 Career Ambulance service of the Year Award from Iowa Emergency Medical Services.

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