

Grand Chute Fire Department

Timothy A. Bantes, Fire Chief



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GRAND CHUTE APARTMENT FIRE CAUSES HEAVY DAMAGE

Fire Under Investigation; No Injuries Reported

GRAND CHUTE – On Friday October 16th at 3:04 PM the Grand Chute Fire Department was dispatched to 3117 Tri Park Court for a report of a structure fire. As units were still responding, Outagamie County 911 Dispatchers provided additional information stating that they were receiving multiple calls reporting a fire in an apartment building, prompting the incident to be upgraded to a working still prior to fire department arrival. The Appleton Fire Department also responded under our reciprocal automatic aid agreement.

First arriving companies found heavy fire venting through the roof of the sixteen unit, two-story apartment building and immediately upgraded the fire to the box alarm level bringing additional resources from the Town of Menasha, Greenville, and Town of Neenah Fire Departments to the scene. As fire attack efforts were initiated, crews simultaneously conducted aggressive interior searches of the building under deteriorating conditions, determining that all residents had evacuated. With the flames rapidly extending laterally through the roof and attic space, personnel worked quickly to confine and extinguish the fire before it reached the eight units on the north side of the structure. The fire was brought under control approximately one hour after the initial dispatch.

The eight units on the south side of the building sustained heavy heat, smoke, and water damage, with the roof collapsing over that portion of the structure as well. While the remaining eight units on the north side sustained only minor damage, utility service to the entire structure has been disconnected and residents have not been permitted to re-occupy their apartments as a safety precaution. Gold Cross Ambulance stood by on scene, and no civilian or firefighter injuries were reported. Fire personnel were on location throughout Friday night and into the early morning hours on Saturday monitoring and extinguishing hot spots. Damage estimates have not been made available at the time of this release, and the cause of the fire remains under investigation by the Grand Chute Fire and Police Departments.

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