



MEDIA RELEASE

HOUSE FIRE – 1900 Highland Drive, Elm Grove

On Sunday, at approximately 3:21PM, Elm Grove Police and Fire Departments responded to an active garage fire, at the above location. First responding fire command and police units arrived within three minutes of the call. The fire involved a stand alone four car garage structure that was associated to a single family home. The home was occupied at the time, but all family members were evacuated safely. The residential structure was not damaged in this event. The homeowner reports that he had had an outdoor recreational fire contained in a commercial portable fire place on Saturday evening, 10-26-13. He discarded the ashes in a compost pile located alongside the garage structure at approximately 1:00PM, on today's date, believing that the ashes were cool and safe to discard. The ashes kindled the compost pile and the fire spread to the garage. Responding fire units were quickly able to contain the fire to the garage structure, saving the associated residence and surrounding residential structures. The garage and contents were a total loss. No vehicles were in the garage at the time of the fire.

There were no reported injuries to citizens or emergency personnel.

Emergency responders arrived within minutes of the call. This fire necessitated a box alarm, consisting of the following fire agencies:

- Village of Elm Grove
- City of Brookfield
- Town of Brookfield
- Town of Waukesha
- City of Wauwatosa
- City of New Berlin
- Village of Butler
- Village of Menomonee Falls
- Village of Lannon
- Tess Corners
- Village of Sussex
- City of Franklin

The following police agencies assisted with this fire:

- Village of Elm Grove

This fire is deemed to be accidental. Early estimate of structural loss is unknown. Total assessed value of the home, including land, is \$543,700, based on 2012 property tax listings. Elm Grove Fire Chief William Selzer commented on today's fire, "Today we are happy to report that we were able to limit the damage to the garage only, but this incident underscores the importance of safely discarding fire place ash in a metal container and to soak the ashes in water to insure that they are completely out before final disposal. We are thankful that no one was hurt."

For,

William Selzer
Fire Chief
Elm Grove Fire Department

By,

James P. Gage
Chief of Police
10/27/2013 1820

Images:



