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# Press Release

Topic: Flames; heat from house fire damage four other homes.

Incident Number: 13- 670

*Van Buren Township* - On Monday April 1, 2013 at 10:03PM the Van Buren Police and Fire Departments were dispatched to a possible house fire on Florence Lane in the Homestead Subdivision. The Van Buren Public Safety Communications Center began to receive multiple calls reporting flames were visible on the second floor.

At 10:05pm the South Duty responded in Engine 1 and Chief Besson responded from his home. The North Duty Crew, assigned to Fire Headquarters, was on a medical emergency involving a patient suffering from a serious ailment. While responding crews were advised that Van Buren Police Officers were on scene and confirmed a working structure fire and the occupants could not be accounted for. Chief Besson requested mutual aid from the Romulus Fire Department to send a Rapid Intervention Team - a crew set up to specifically rescue firefighters if they become loss or trapped during rescue operations.

Upon arrival, at 10:14pm, Chief Besson found a two-story home was well involved in fire and neighbors were indicating the family was not home. Engine 4 and Engine 1 arrived and began to set up operations to protect the surrounding homes - four of which were already damaged by the intense heat and wind conditions. Water was supplied to the fire engines at a hydrant opened and prepared for by first arriving Van Buren Police Officers. Additional operational plans were put into place as other equipment arrived on scene.

No injuries were reported and the loss is estimated at \$300,000. The cause is still under investigation.

The Public Safety Chaplains were contacted to help set the family up with temporary housing and other needs. 1-800-Board-up, a private contractor, was requested to help secure the portions of the home damaged by the fire and also

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provide the family some assistance. In addition to the Romulus Fire Department the City of Belleville and Canton Township Fire Departments provided additional equipment and manpower and we are grateful for our neighbors' helping hands.

Firefighters remained on scene verifying any smoldering fires had been extinguished - the last fire unit cleared at 3:05 am. Engine 1, Engine 2, Engine 3, Engine 4, Rescue 1, Utility 1, Utility 2, Tac-1, Tac-2, and Chief 1, responded to the scene. The Van Buren Fire Department had 22 Firefighters on scene and nine other firefighters responding from the neighboring departments.

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Photos Available: Yes