



CITY OF MUSCATINE
215 SYCAMORE STREET
MUSCATINE, IA 52761
PH. (563) 264-1550 • FAX (563) 264-0750

PRESS RELEASE

MUSCATINE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Public Safety Building, 312 E. 5th Street, Muscatine, Iowa 52761
563.263.9233

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 19, 2019

UPDATE

WOMAN RESCUED FROM APARTMENT FIRE THURSDAY

Firefighters quickly extinguish late night kitchen fire in Muscatine

MUSCATINE, Iowa – A Muscatine woman is in stable condition after she was rescued from a smoke filled apartment Thursday (April 18) night and transported to Trinity Muscatine by Muscatine Fire Department ambulance.

The Muscatine Joint Communications Center (MUSCOM) received a 911 call at 11:58 p.m. Thursday of a kitchen fire in Apartment B at 403 West 3rd Street with an individual trapped and yelling for help. First responders could see fire through the second story window on the backside of the building upon arrival and initiated a fire attack.

“When we arrived we could not hear anyone yelling for help,” Battalion Chief Gary Ronzheimer said.

Firefighters then forced the door open to the upstairs apartment and began a search.

“Lieutenant Roy Patterson and firefighter Reese Hall made entry into the smoke filled apartment and searched for the victim,” Ronzheimer said. “They were able to locate the victim and brought her downstairs.”

The victim was then taken to an ambulance where other firefighters worked on her. She was transported to Trinity in stable condition.

Fire crews ‘knocked down’ the main body of the fire within 13 minutes, and then continued to overhaul the rest of the residence to ensure the fire was completely out.

There was fire damage throughout the apartment involved with limited water and smoke damage to other apartments.

Initial reports from the completed on-scene investigation indicate that the fire started in the kitchen. Smoke detectors were present and did activate. Direct fire and smoke loss estimate is approximately \$7,500, with about \$2,500 to the structure and \$5,000 to the contents. The American Red Cross was called to the scene to assist the residents of the building.

There was no emergency responder injuries.

The Muscatine Fire Department was assisted by the Muscatine Police Department. Approximately 11 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



CITY OF MUSCATINE
215 SYCAMORE STREET
MUSCATINE, IA 52761
PH. (563) 264-1550 • FAX (563) 264-0750

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.

Prepared by:
Mike Hartman, Fire Marshal
mhartman@muscatineiowa.gov
563-263-9233