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FIRE DEPARTMENT

**For more information contact:**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DECEMBER 7, 2020**

**STORAGE BUILDING DESTROYED BY FIRE LATE SUNDAY NIGHT**

*Smell of smoke leads firefighters to burning building; just a pile of debris left*

**MUSCATINE, Iowa** – A storage building and its contents were destroyed in a fire late Sunday night but no injuries were reported according to the Muscatine Fire Department.

The Muscatine Joint Communications Center (MUSCOM) received a 911 call at approximately 11:30 p.m. Sunday (December 6, 2020) from a resident who smelled smoke in the area of Sampson Street near the Canadian Pacific Railroad. Further information was received while fire units were heading to the area and additional fire units were dispatched.

Upon arrival crews found smoke and fire coming from a building at 2357 Sampson Street, Muscatine. The building collapsed soon after units arrived with fire crews bringing the fire under control after about an hour. An end loader was brought in to push the debris into a pile while fire crews sprayed it down.

The building involved was a tin storage building with a pre-fire value assessed of \$11,600. The building was a total loss as were all of the items stored inside.

The on scene investigation was completed early this morning with the cause undetermined at

this time. Anyone with information about the fire can contact Assistant Fire Chief Mike Hartman at 563-263-9233 or email Assistant Chief Hartman at [mhartman@muscataineiowa.gov](mailto:mhartman@muscataineiowa.gov).

There were no injuries to any responders. An estimated 18 fire fighters responded including off duty staff and an automatic mutual aid assistance from the Fruitland Fire Department. The Muscatine Police Department provided support with initial response and traffic control.

**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 5,238 calls in 2019. 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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