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## Elderly Orofino woman rescued from fire

An elderly Orofino woman was rescued from her home early Wednesday morning after fire broke out in a back bedroom.

According to Orofino Fire Chief Mike Lee, fire fighter Chris Patton spotted an unusual amount of smoke coming from the area as he returned home from another call. Upon investigation, he found the home at 205 111th St. on fire and called it in about 5:50 a.m.

Fire fighters were originally told that the home was unoccupied, but another neighbor shortly after that told them that Arlene Leslie, 83, lived in the residence. She was rescued within a few minutes before the fire reached her where she was in the living room. Leslie was already on oxygen and suffered smoke inhalation. She was transported to Clearwater Valley Hospital by Clearwater County Ambulance Service, then transferred to the Lewiston Airport by ambulance for an airplane flight to Harbor View Medical Center in Seattle, WA.

Lee said the fire was electrical and no smoke alarms were found in the home. The home was destroyed by the fire. The State Fire Marshall from Moscow assisted in the investigation of the blaze.

The biggest challenge in fighting the fire was it had been remodeled several times. Lee said it had three roofs and three ceilings and the fire was burning between them. The top roof was metal and that held the fire down inside. The cold weather was also a challenge.

About 20 fire fighters were on scene to fight the blaze which took several hours to extinguish. Fire fighters were called back Wednesday when hot spots rekindled the fire.

Orofino Fire Department was assisted by Sunnyside Rural Fire Department, Clearwater County Ambulance Service, Orofino Police Department and Clearwater County Sheriff's Department.

Other than Leslie, there were no injuries.



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Fire fighters from Orofino and Sunnyside battled a blaze that destroyed a home on 111th St. early Wednesday morning.



With remodeling of the residence, there were three roofs and three ceilings. The fire burned between those making it a challenge to fight.



Fire fighters work to open up access to the area between the roofs so they can better fight the blaze. Three roofs and three ceilings made reaching the fire difficult.



Fire fighters spray water through a front window to put out flames licking at the ceiling.



A fire fighter works to put out flames in the ceiling and roof area of the residence. (Photos by Kelly Gardner and Nancy C. Butler)

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