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Fire causes significant damage to residence

A residence at 216 Tamarack was significantly damaged by fire Friday afternoon, according to Orofino Fire Chief Mike Lee.



Lee said one of the residents had cleaned ashes out of the wood stove in the basement the day before and left them in a plastic bucket near the stove and a wall. Those ashes caught the wall on fire. The fire went through vents into the living room above. Lee said there was heavy damage to basement some to the living room floor, the residence which belongs to June Finke can be repaired.

Fire fighters check the attic area of the home at 216 Tamarack

Smoke from the fire was first noticed by neighbors. No one was home when the fire broke out. There were no injuries to people, but three cats in the residence died.

While it is good to clean ashed out of wood stoves and chimney, Lee cautions people to be careful how they do it. He said that people need to use metal buckets and make sure the ashes are cold. It is even a good idea to put water on them. The ashes should also be removed from the house.



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In addition to Orofino Fire Department, Sunnyside Rural Fire Department Chief John Willard, Clearwater County Ambulance Service, Orofino Police Department and Clearwater County Sheriff's Department assisted at the scene.

Photos: Right--Burn marks on the chair and quilt show some of the effects of the fire that started in the basement and spread to the living room through vents. Left--The fire fighter at the door hold a ribbon while the fire fighter kneeling at the fan adjusts the direction by watching the ribbon's movement.



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