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# 199 Fire caused by smoking

**By TERESA LEE**  
**The Wellington News**

Careless smoking is to blame for a fire that destroyed a Wellington home, Friday night.

“Careless discharge of smoking materials” is the official cause of the fire, Wellington Fire Chief John Lloyd said Monday.

Investigators had been working through the weekend to determine the cause of the blaze at a home on the corner of Maple and Jefferson.

“There ended up being three kids in there. Two of them were teenagers and one of them was younger...we know that they were smoking on the second story balcony...they

said they were smoking cigars and they didn't get them out and that coincides with the location of the point of origin of the fire,” Lloyd said.

Lloyd said there will be no charges against the teens for the incident saying it was an “accidental fire.”

Fire crews receive the call of the fire at around 7:05 p.m., Friday. When crews arrived two minutes later, the west side and back of the home were fully engulfed in flames, with the fire quickly spreading — the wind carrying still-burning embers and debris to neighboring homes to the north.

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Lloyd said nothing could be done to save the home, so the focus was keeping the fire contained and neighboring homes safe from the fire.

Three departments responded to the fire — the Wellington Fire Department, Mayfield Fire Department and Sumner County District No. 9, Belle Plaine. Mayfield brought three firefighters, Belle Plaine had six and Wellington had a total of 16 — nearly all of the department.

The fire was out by 9:57 p.m., though a second house

fire three doors north of the original fire was reported around 10 p.m., though it was quickly contained.

“An ember, we think, got caught between the guttering and the facial board..,” Lloyd said. “There was just a little bit of damage and we were able to get to that real quick.”

Damage is estimated at \$100,000 for the home at Maple and Jefferson and about \$60,000 for the contents inside, Lloyd.

Fire is no stranger to this home, the fire chief said.

“We understand there was one in the 70s there. I do know of one, I think it was in ‘02, we had a fire there then, which really destroyed

the house. It was on the east side in a bedroom upstairs, a front bedroom...it was a wiring problem, but they rebuilt it and really did a nice job on it and everything,” Lloyd said.

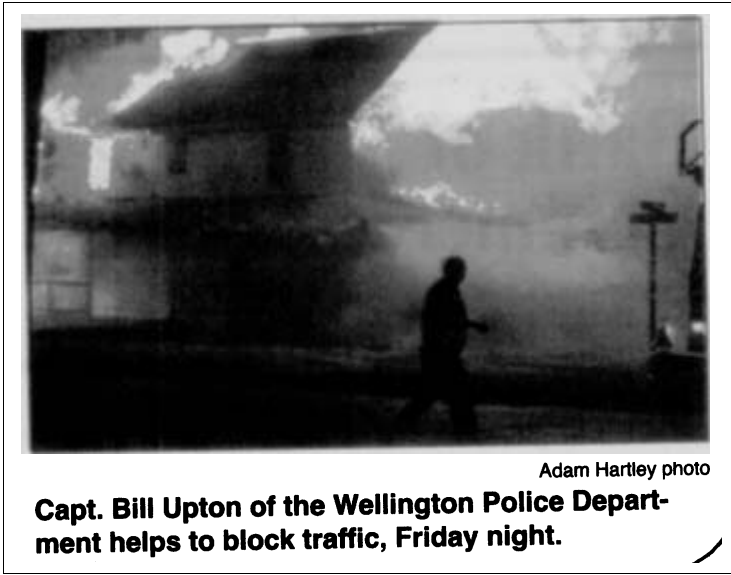
The fire chief hopes the tragedy of one home will be a wake-up call to others, as the house fire season starts.

“They really need to be careful because once the cold weather snaps, we will have more fireplaces going...make sure your furnace is ready and if you need a battery in your smoke detector, or if you need smoke detectors, get a hold of us. We have free ones for everybody,” Lloyd said.





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Adam Hartley photo

**Capt. Bill Upton of the Wellington Police Department helps to block traffic, Friday night.**

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# <sup>199</sup> Mulvane Fire Report

The Mulvane Fire Rescue Squad had a busy week, receiving 11 calls throughout the week of Monday, Nov. 2 through Sunday, Nov. 8.

Illegal burning was reported in the 400 block of S. Fourth Saturday, Nov. 7. The fire was extinguished. A natural gas smell was reported on the Kansas Turnpike near mile marker 33. The call was disregarded by the Sumner County Fire Department.

The Mulvane Fire Department extinguished a building fire in the 400 block of E. Main Friday, Nov. 6. The HVAC unit burned up.

The MFD staffed the ambulance at two EMS calls in the 600 block of E. Main Thursday, Nov. 5. A driver was provided to the EMS in the 1600 block of Timbers Edge at a call for a medical

emergency. Firefighters secured the vehicle involved in a motor vehicle accident in the area of 119th and Webb Road.

The fire department was second out at a medical emergency call in the 700 block of Ridgepoint Wednesday, Nov. 4. Firefighters staffed the ambulance. A grain dryer fire was reported at the Mulvane Co-Op in the 200 block of Poplar. The fire was successfully extinguished.

The fire was extinguished in the 100 block of E. Collier when the illegal burning of leaves was reported Tuesday, Nov. 3.

A call of a motor vehicle accident was came in Monday, Nov. 2. The accident happened near K-15 and Gueda Springs and was car versus deer. The call was disregarded as there were no injuries

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## <sup>199</sup> Early morning fire damages home on N. 8th Street today

A structure fire at 705 N. 8th caused approximately \$20,000 in damage to the residence early this morning.

Independence firefighters responded to the alarm at 5:05 a.m. today to a residence occupied by Charles Rosenhoo~~ver~~ and his two daughters, but all three were away from the residence when the fire broke out.

While the investigation is continuing into the cause of the fire, firefighters said when they arrived smoke was coming from the eaves of the home, and upon entering the structure fire was found coming from the floor in the

dining room, and was extinguished quickly.

Firefighters extinguished fire from the crawl space, and also located fire in the attic and along the west wall of the dining room.

The report filed by Firefighter Phil Loveless said Rosenhoo~~ver~~ indicated his daughters had spent the night with their mother, and he left the home between 10:30 p.m. and 11 p.m., and was called by a neighbor stating his house was on fire.

The damage was estimated at \$20,000 to the home, and an additional \$4,000 in damage to its contents.