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HOME / WST / LOCAL / MAN RESCUED FROM HOUSE FIRE IN BL





BLPD LT. SAM OLSON, pictured here with his daughter, Libby, helped save a Big Lake resident from a house fire in the early hours of Monday morning. (Submitted photo).

MAN RESCUED FROM HOUSE FIRE IN BL

Fri, 05/30/2014 - 11:33am admin

Subhead:

Staff Writer

Jennifer Edwards

A house fire drew the most attention this week after a neighbor to the north of the home at 731 Lake Shore Drive reported seeing flames coming from the trash can behind the garage in the early hours of Monday morning.

"The home owner emptied his charcoal grill into the garbage can," Big Lake Fire Chief Paul Nemes said. "But the coals weren't out. The fire started in the can at the corner of the garage and got into the garage wall and the outside wall of the house."

Before the fire department could respond to the scene, the flames had crept up the wall of the house, into a second story bedroom and up the inside of the wall into the attic.

Meanwhile, the home's resident, Paul Ross, was sound asleep downstairs on the couch, oblivious to the fire starting to rage around him.

"Fortunately, Officer Sam Olson was on patrol that night and got to the home first," Chief Nemes said. "There were visible flames. When he found out from the neighbor who reported the fire their was someone home, Sam kicked the front door in and got the man out."

The firefighters arrived on the scene shortly thereafter and with mutual aid from Monticello and Becker they pulled open the walls and ceilings and got the fire out while Elk River was on stand-by.

"I haven't filed the report yet but I estimate there was about \$60,000 in damages," Chief Nemes said. "But at least the home is repairable."

"It is usually quiet around Big Lake on holiday weekends," said Chief Nemes.

"That wasn't the case this weekend. We answered nine calls for service between Friday and Tuesday morning," he said.

Two of those calls were for car fires. One was for a grass fire. One was for an accident involving an empty school bus. More than one call was to Liberty School to respond to ringing alarms. There was a small electrical fire and the house fire at 12:10 a.m. Monday.

Five new recruits begin their fire fighter training with the BLFD June 1, Chief Nemes reported.

The fire department will be doing a controlled burn this month at the former A&W building on Hwy. 10 and Lake Shore Drive.

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