

**KEARNEY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**MEDIA RELEASE**

Date of Fire 12 June 2023 Alarm Time 11:02 Under Control 12:01  
Location of Fire 4210 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Type of Emergency Structure Fire  
Possible Cause Under Investigation Number of Firefighters \_\_\_\_\_  
Number Type of Trucks 2 Engines, 1 Ladder Truck  
Occupant \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner Lori Utemark Address 4210 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue

Does residence have a smoke alarm(s)? Yes  No  Unknown  Not Applicable

Was the smoke alarm(s) working? Yes  No  Unknown  Not Applicable

If no, reason smoke alarm(s) were not working: Battery Dead  Battery missing or disconnected

Hardwired detector unplugged or shut off  Fire too small to activate detector  Other

Details The Kearney Volunteer Fire Department (KVFD) was dispatched to a structure fire behind Mirror Image on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, possible address of 4210 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue. Upon arrival KVFD crews found heavy black smoke and flames coming from the garage and heavy smoke coming from the eaves of all 4 sides of the home. KVFD crews initiated a fire attack and a primary search of the structure. No occupants were found during the search. KVFD crews cut a hole in the roof of the home for vertical ventilation. The fire was extinguished and the incident was declared under control at 12:01. The homeowner arrived on scene and advised that she was not at home when the fire started. The majority of the fire damage was contained to the garage and attic. However, the home had an extensive amount of smoke damage throughout the inside. The Nebraska State Fire Marshal's Office was called to assist KVFD in the origin and cause investigation. The origin and cause remains under investigation, however the preliminary investigation indicates the fire was caused by a malfunction of an electrical appliance or an electrical component inside the garage. The Red Cross was called to assist the homeowner. All KVFD units returned to service and no injuries were reported.