

KEARNEY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
MEDIA RELEASE

Date of Fire: 10 October 2023_ Alarm Time: 1219 _____ Under Control: 1636 _____

Location of Fire: 23410 175th Rd. Riverdale NE _____ Type of Emergency: Structure Fire _____

Possible Cause: Under Investigation _____ Number of Firefighters: 30 _____

Number Type of Trucks: 2 Engines, 4 Tankers, 2 Grass Rigs, 4 Utility Vehicles _____

Occupant: Samuel Kneifl _____

Owner: Samuel Kneifl _____ Address: 23410 175th Rd. Riverdale Nebraska 68870 _____

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 reported by a passerby at 23410 175th Rd. Upon arrival, crews found heavy smoke and fire coming from the north end of the structure. Crews pulled hose lines and applied water to the fire, from the exterior of the structure, while other personnel established water supply. Crews quickly extinguished the bulk of the fire and conducted a search of the residence. No occupants were home at the time of the fire. Crews on scene were faced with challenges accessing several void spaces in the home where small fires burned and smoldered. This caused crews to be on scene for an extended period of time conducting overhaul. The home sustained extensive fire damage and structural collapse in the north end of the home, and heavy smoke and heat damage throughout the rest of the structure. KVFD was assisted by BCSO, Dawson Public Power, Black Hills Energy, Pleasanton Volunteer Fire Department, Amherst Volunteer Fire Department and the Red Cross. The Nebraska State Fire Marshal was called in to investigate the origin of the fire. The cause is still under investigation, but the fire is believed to have started in the basement of the structure.