

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

Date of Fire 09 October 2024 Alarm Time 01:49 Under Control 05:16  
Location of Fire 419 East 25<sup>th</sup> Street Type of Emergency Structure Fire  
Possible Cause Under Investigation Number of Firefighters 20  
Number Type of Trucks 2 Engines, 1 Ladder, & 2 Utility  
Occupant \_\_\_\_\_

Owner: James Wiltgen Address \_\_\_\_\_

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 the Taco Johns, located at 419 East 25<sup>th</sup> Street, for the report of smoke in the building. The Buffalo County 911 Communications Center received a security alarm at this location and dispatched a Kearney Police Officer to check on the situation. Upon the officer's arrival, he requested that KVFD be dispatched due to smoke in the building. Upon arrival, KVFD found heavy smoke throughout the building and smoke pushing through the eaves of the structure. Crews made entry into the structure to search for the fire and/or occupants. During this time, the incident commander observed flames coming through the roof. The incident commander called for the interior crews to exit the structure due to safety concerns. KVFD crews continued to fight the fire from the outside of the structure. The fire was brought under control at 05:16. The State Fire Marshal was contacted to assist with the origin and cause investigation. The cause of the fire is still under investigation. There were no occupants in the structure at the time of the fire and there were no injuries reported. The south eastbound lane of 25<sup>th</sup> street, and Avenue E between 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> street are closed to traffic until scene operations are complete. Other agencies who assisted at the scene were the Kearney Police Department, Gibbon Volunteer Fire Department, CHI Good Samaritan EMS, NPPD, Northwestern Energy, and the City of Kearney Public Works Department.