



CITY OF WATERTOWN, NEW YORK
FIRE DEPARTMENT
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PRESS RELEASE

At approximately 04:56 hours this morning, City of Watertown Fire Department was dispatched through the Jefferson County 911 Center for a structure fire in the 1100 block of State Street. First arriving fire apparatus found a heavy smoke condition in the area and found a fire at 1125 State Street. This is a 6 unit apartment building, owned by Stephen McGowan of 20932 Hunt Street. Fire crews stretched an attack line to a second floor apartment, while a water supply and primary search was being conducted. The incident commander recognized a rapidly expanding fire in the attic area, and called the interior crews to vacate the structure while the fire suppression efforts turned to a defensive operation with large caliber hose lines and use of the department's aerial truck.

Watertown Police Officers on scene were able to identify and account for all occupants of the building, and the Red Cross was called to help those occupants with temporary shelter. National Grid was called to the scene to isolate both electrical and gas services to the building and the City's Code Enforcement and DPW also responded to the scene.

Fort Drum Fire Department as well as WFD recall personnel were put to work both at the scene conducting overhaul and salvage operations along with staffing reserve fire apparatus to handle any additional calls.

At the time of this release, there were no reported civilian or firefighter injuries. The area of origin is a second floor apartment, where two occupants had reportedly left the building around midnight. Fire Investigators are making plans to enter the structure as fire suppression efforts continue as well as dewatering the building to render it as safe as possible.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dale C. Herman".

Dale C. Herman
Fire Chief, EFO