



COMMERCE POLICE DEPARTMENT

1201 ALAMO STREET, COMMERCE, TEXAS 75428

(903) 886-1139 * FAX (903) 886-8575

PRESS RELEASE

2 Killed in Early Morning Structure Fire

On 03-09-2008 at 0352am, Commerce Police Department Communications received two 9-1-1 hang-up calls from a residence in the 1700 block of Sycamore Street. Commerce Police policy dictates that a patrol officer and the Commerce Fire Department will be dispatched to all 9-1-1 hang-up calls.

Dispatch sent all appropriate personnel, who discovered the residence on fire. Fire officials reported that on their arrival, flames were visible from the roof at the rear of the residence. After personnel were dispatched, a third 9-1-1 call came in.

The residence housed approximately 13 persons. All but two escaped the residence. After a search of the residence, firefighters located the bodies of a 5 year old boy and a 61 year old man. There were also reports of minor injuries to other persons from the residence.

Campbell and Wolfe City Fire Departments were called in for mutual aid. Once the fire was contained, Wolfe City Fire Department staffed our Fire Station to take any other emergency calls.

The 5 year old is identified as Tryston Easley and the 61 year old as Lee Easley.

Justice of the Peace Jennifer Reeves was called for the inquest and ordered an autopsy on both of the decedents.

Other resources called to assist are as follows:

Joe Knight, Chaplain for Hunt County and Greenville Police Department and Precinct 1 Deputy Constable. He was called for Critical Incident Debriefing with the Fire and Police Department.

Father George Monaghan, St. Joseph Catholic Church was called to provide assistance to the family.

American Red Cross was called to provide any necessary assistance to the family and to assist the Firefighters. They can provide clothing, temporary housing and furnishing to the family. They also provide rehab to firefighters.

Hunt County Fire Marshall Richard Hill was also called in to assist with the investigation.

The Hunt County Environmental Officers were also called to assist at the request of Captain Mike Ross and Chief Tommy Eaton. The two officers in that department are trained in Fire Investigations and can provide a valuable service to the Commerce Fire Department.

Investigators with the Commerce Fire Department, Commerce Police Department and Hunt County Fire Marshall's Office are in charge of the investigation.