

BROOME COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK

Residents All Escape Two Alarm Binghamton Apartment Building Fire

by Nicholas Griswold

All photos by George Kilpatrick

At 1947 hours on the evening of Wednesday March 7, 2012, while Group B was working, the Binghamton Fire Department was dispatched to alarm # 12-1561 for a reported fire at 17 Mygatt Street in the city's First Ward.

County Dispatch advised that a resident at the apartment building at this address was reporting a fire in their bathroom. Moments later while all units were still enroute County Dispatch gave an update that they were getting multiple calls from the fire building of a working fire within the building.

Just a few minutes after dispatch both Car 21 and Quint 2 arrived on scene with a report that smoke was showing and fire could be seen on the roof of a three story wood frame constructed apartment building. The crew from Quint 2 began stretching a line to the third floor where residents were reporting the fire. Quint 2 also performed a quick initial search of the main fire floor. Tower 21 arrived and although power lines did not permit the use of the tower ladder, the crew from Tower 21 were able to utilize Quint 2's aerial to make the roof to assess the situation.

Squad 21 arrived and took a hydrant on the corner of Mygatt Street and Dickinson Street. to supply Quint 2. Squad 21's crew then joined Quint 2's crew on the third floor to assist with fire suppression and horizontal



Part of Tower 21's crew enters the building to assist with overhaul as smoke still pushes from 3rd floor windows.

ventilation. Due to initial reports that there may be children trapped on the third floor and the size of the building the Duty Chief struck a second alarm. Luckily the reports turned out to be false and all occupants were accounted for.



Smoke can be seen from 3rd floor windows as newly arriving crews get their assignments from the Chief.

When crews made the third floor heavy smoke and high heat were experienced as the fire was found to be burning in both third floor apartments. It was found that this building had a central shaft in the building that allowed for windows in the bathrooms of each apartment. Fire was burning inside this shaft and had extended into the bathrooms and out into the living room areas of the third floor apartments. Once it was realized where the seat of the fire was located Tower 21 was requested to vertically vent the skylight that covered the shaft at the roof level.

Once the fire was knocked down an extensive overhaul was needed on the third floor especially in the bathroom and living room areas. The Binghamton Fire Marshal's office is investigating the cause of the fire. On the initial alarm was Car 21, Quint 21-2, Engine 21-9 (serving as Quint 21-3), Engine 21-4, Squad 21, and Tower 21. The second alarm brought Engine 21-1 to the scene and utilized a call in process to staff the spare tower ladder which remained on standby at headquarters. Also on the second alarm was a request for standby companies from Johnson City, Vestal, Port Dickinson, and Five Mile Point. Superior Ambulance and Binghamton Police also assisted on scene. The second alarm was released in about a half hour and all other crews were safely clear from the scene by 2215 hours

MORE PHOTOS BELOW



Squad 21's rig operates as water supply at the scene.



Part of Tower 21's crew operates on the roof during overhaul.



Part of Tower 21's crew descends Quint 2's aerial from the roof.



Crews ascend Quint 2's aerial to finish the last bits of overhaul.



Crews from Superior Ambulance standby at the fire scene.