



Tom Sheridan Photo - Chief 37A describes to Broome County Fire Investigators where the heaviest amount of fire was upon arrival.

## Port Crane Battles House Fire With Difficult Access by Nick Griswold

At 10:10 hours on Saturday February 26, 2011, Broome County Communications dispatched the Port Crane Fire Department (37) to 442 Ballyhack Road for a reported house fire. Chief 37A went responding and could immediately see heavy smoke showing and requested the 2nd alarm. Upon arrival Chief 37A found a well involved single story home about 700 feet off the roadway up a long and steep unplowed driveway.

Immediately realizing that access to the structure was going to be difficult Chief 37A made a request for a four wheel drive pumper from Chenango Bridge Fire Department (39). However even the four wheel drive pumper was only able to push halfway up the driveway before having to pack and hand lay in to the structure. In all, 700 feet of 5 inch LDH was hand laid from the roadway to a manifold where two, 2 inch lines with smooth bore nozzles and one 2.5 inch attack line were connected and used to extinguish the fully involved structure. ATV's were also used to shuttle firefighters from the roadway into the scene.

At the time of the fire there were several teenagers and the family's cat at home. Initial reports were that a smoke detector alerted the occupants to the fire and they evacuated the structure before calling 911. An investigation into the cause of the fire is still ongoing. Initially it was believed that the family's cat may have perished in the fire but during overhaul the cat was found alive, hiding inside a heating duct for the forced hot air heating.

Responding Departments were a full response from Port Crane Stations 1 and 2 along with Port Crane Auxiliary, Chenango Forks (44), Sanitaria Springs (49), Chenango Bridge (39), for their 4 x 4 pumper, Harpursville (43) for a FAST Team, and Five Mile Point (59) for standby and later a tanker to the scene, Broome ambulance for a standby EMS crew. Broome County Fire Coordinators and Broome County Fire Investigation Team, along with the Red Cross, also assisted at the scene. The last units finished mopping up and cleared the scene at 17:30 hours.



Tom Sheridan Photo- A Fire Department ATV sits near what is left of the structure



Tom Sheridan Photo- Apparatus lined up on Ballyhack Road near the scene



Tom Sheridan photo. Tanker shuttle operations in progress at the bottom of the driveway.