



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**City of Duluth Fire Department**

---

411 West First Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55802  
218-730-4400 | [www.duluthmn.gov](http://www.duluthmn.gov) | John Strongitharm, Fire Chief

For more information contact the Fire Department at 218-730-4391



**DATE: 01/29/2011**  
**NATURE OF INCIDENT: Munger Terrace Apartment Fire**  
**CASE NO.: 11000675**  
**INCIDENT DATE :01/29/2011**  
**INCIDENT TIME: 3:37 AM**  
**INCIDENT LOCATION: 405 Mesaba Ave**  
**SUBJECT: Fire Sprinkler Controls Fire**  
**BY: Asst Fire Chief Richard Mattson**

---

At 3:37 AM the Duluth Fire Department responded to a report of an apartment fire at Munger Terrace Apartments, 405 Mesaba Ave. Upon arrival they determined the fire was located in the 4th floor apartment of a center section of the building. The automatic fire sprinkler system had activated in the fire apartment and mostly extinguished the fire. Firefighters shut down the sprinkler system, ventilated the smoke from the building and evacuated the water from the sprinkler discharge.

The fire was caused by a child playing with fire while his mother was sleeping. He woke his mother to tell her the couch was on fire and they escaped the apartment without injury. The sprinkler system knocked the fire down before it could become life threatening to the occupants. It also limited the fire damage to a scorched wall and ceiling. Without this system in place the outcome would have been much worse.

Red Cross personnel responded to the scene to offer temporary lodging and meals to the eight residents displaced by the fire. The water damage to four units located in the fire section of the building was extensive. It will take a considerable amount of time and effort before residents will be able to return to their homes.