



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
City of Duluth Fire Department

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DATE: 08/26/2009
NATURE OF INCIDENT: House Fire
CASE NO.: 09-006314
INCIDENT DATE :08/26/2009
INCIDENT TIME: 0920
INCIDENT LOCATION: 8511 Congdon Blvd.
SUBJECT: House Fire
BY: Assistant Chief's Office

The Duluth Fire Department responded to report of a dryer fire at 0920 hours this morning at 8511 Congdon Blvd. The response was somewhat delayed due to the fire company housed at the Lakeside fire station being downtown attending training at the time of the alarm.

Upon arrival, a female notified firefighters that her husband was in the basement, fighting the fire with a garden hose. Firefighters made immediate entry and found a male victim unconscious and not breathing in the smoke filled basement. The victim was removed from the house and treated by firefighters. The victim was transported to a local hospital by Gold Cross Ambulance. The remaining fire was quickly extinguished, limiting further damage to the rest of the house.

Fire damage was limited to an electric clothes dryer and the area around it, however there was significant smoke throughout the building. Damage estimates are \$6,500 for the building and contents.

During the course of rescuing the victim, one firefighter suffered a back injury and a wrist injury. He was treated and released from a local medical facility, and remains off duty.

While the victim in this case is credited with limiting the spread of the fire, the Duluth Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to highlight some important fire prevention messages:

1. Be extremely careful in making the choice to fight a fire. Even a small fire can generate enough smoke containing carbon monoxide; a deadly colorless, odorless gas. Just one or two lungfuls can be enough to incapacitate anyone, quickly overcoming any attempts to escape. Fighting your own fires is rarely the best choice.
2. All property owners/occupants should ensure they have operating smoke detectors. While there were smoke alarms in this house, none were functional at the time of the fire.
3. All property owners/occupants should be sure to clean out their dryers and vent pipes with a vacuum cleaner. Routine maintenance can go a long way toward preventing a fire.

The cause of this fire has been investigated by the Duluth Fire Marshal's office, with the likely cause an over accumulation of lint within the dryer.