

Wednesday, July 08, 2009
9:36 AM



**City of Duluth
Duluth Fire Department
Press Release**

For Immediate Release:

**Lee Youngblom
Acting Assistant Fire Chief
218-730-4391**

At 9:04 last evening the Duluth Fire Department responded to a structure fire at 2832 W 3rd St. The smoke was visible from H.Q. fire station. On arrival, 2E reported the structure fully involved. An Ambulance was dispatched due to a report that people may be inside the building.

The fire was initially fought from the outside with large hose lines. When interior attack was possible, primary and secondary searches were completed and no victims were found. It was later determined that this building had been recently vacated.

Initial fire crews were on scene fighting this fire for over 5 hours. Additional crews were called to the scene to rotate exhausted firefighters. This was a difficult fire with a concealed cockloft area on the second floor. At one point all firefighters were evacuated from the fire by the assistant chief due to a possible back-draft developing. When the fire was brought back under control with master stream from the exterior, firefighters again made an interior attack to extinguish and overhaul the fire. A three person crew remained on the scene until 5:00 AM to complete overhaul.

The Deputy Fire Marshall and a Police Investigator responded to the scene for the initial fire investigation. Their investigation will be continued in the morning to determine the cause and origin of the fire.

There were no injuries to either firefighters or civilians. The building appears to be a total loss. Estimated loss is \$160,000.