

MEDIA RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

339 S Ward Street Structure Fire

MACOMB, IL

At 10:46 AM, Saturday December 30, 2023, the Macomb Fire Department was dispatched to a structure fire in a residence at 339 S Ward Street in Macomb. Upon arrival, crews reported flames showing. The initial crew made entry and located fire in the front room and attic. The fire was extinguished, and the structure was ventilated. The occupant was home at the time of the fire and was asleep. He awoke to the smell of smoke and to find fire in the living room and exited the rear structure. The occupant received minor injuries and was treated and released by Lifeguard Ambulance Service. The fire was deemed Under Control at 11:58.

No other injuries to civilians or firefighters were reported, however two canines perished in the fire.

The structure has fire, smoke, and water damage throughout and the estimated loss is \$35,000.

The fire is believed to have started by a space heater that was plugged into a power strip and remains under investigation by the Macomb Fire Department.

The residence had smoke alarms; however, they did not alert due to discharged batteries. The Macomb Fire Department would like to remind residents that smoke alarms are vital in early detection of fires but must be maintained to function properly. Had this residence had working smoke detectors the occupant likely would have sustained no injuries and damage to the structure would have been far less.

Four on-duty Macomb Firefighters initially responded with an additional Nine off-duty firefighters called back to assist on scene and to cover any additional calls for service. Thank you to Macomb - McDonough County Communications Center, Macomb Illinois Police Department, Lifeguard Ambulance Service of Illinois, and Ameren IL for their assistance with the fire. The scene was cleared at 2:59 PM.

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