

**Shelby County Fire Department
Headquarters
1075 Mullins Station Rd. Bldg. "C", 2nd floor
Memphis, TN 38134**



******* EVENT NOTIFICATION *******



Date: March 3, 2014

At just before 7:30 pm calls came into our dispatchers here at the Shelby County Fire Department reporting a large home fire on Watkins Rd. just north of the Northaven community. Callers were saying that the home was on fire and a “full assignment” for a residential structure fire was dispatched to multiple engine companies from both the Shelby County Fire Department and the Millington Fire Department.

The first due in Engine Company arrived in ten minutes reporting that at least 50% of the home was ablaze, that heavy smoke was pushing from the home and that fire was visible through the roof. The extreme weather did present some challenges that had to be overcome including a narrow ice-covered driveway and frigid temperatures that saw the water from the attack nozzles freezing on every surface that was not on fire – including the fire fighters. While ammunition stored in the home detonated from the flames, fire fighters were forced to make a decision to go defensive on this fire and the 2,600 square foot wooden framed home endured major damage.

Among the factors for the start of the fire that are being considered, are a wood burning stove but a formal investigation into the cause of the fire remains on-going. The residents of the home all safely got out and no fire fighters were hurt during this operation.

The Shelby County Fire Department urges everyone to practice smart fire safety and take a moment to consider your family escape plans, the safe distance for safely operating space heaters, their home fire extinguishers and especially the effective placement and operation of all smoke detection devices in your home. Stop by your neighborhood fire station to discuss fire safety with your fire fighters if you have questions.

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