

BROOME COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK

Binghamton Building Heavily Damaged By Fire

by Nicholas Griswold



G. Kilpatrick Photo -

Crews advance lines in the front door as heavy fire begins to show from the A-B corner

Just after 11:30 hours on the morning of January 17, 2012, Broome County Communications dispatched the City of Binghamton Fire Department to alarm # 12-0382, a report of a building fire at 71 Frederick Street on the city's north side. The location is a former NYS department of public works building and had more recently housed the offices for the former STOW manufacturing facility right next door.

Responding companies arrived on scene to find heavy smoke showing from the second floor of a two story building. Under the initial command of the D-shift Duty Chief a second alarm was struck which brought in the last remaining on duty apparatus and all department chiefs, staffed the two spare apparatus, and placed mutual aid companies on stand by. Crews immediately began an aggressive search for the fire on the second floor. While crews advanced from inside the structure heavy fire became visible from the A-B corner of the second floor and crews were temporarily backed out in order to make a quick exterior knock down with master streams.



G. Kilpatrick Photo- Exterior streams are used to knock down the fire with Chief of Department (bottom right) in command



G. Kilpatrick photo- Crews gain access to the second floor via an exterior stairwell on the C-D corner.

Once the main body of fire had been doused using the master streams, crews were allowed to re-enter the structure to continue extinguishment and begin overhaul. Crews worked for several hours to find and extinguish hot spots throughout the second floor and into the roof area. The entire second floor of the structure was severely damaged by the fire.



During overhaul operations it was determined that an illegal apartment had been constructed on the second floor and that it was occupied at the time of the fire. All residents made it out of the structure but two dogs were found to have been unable to make it out. The Binghamton Fire Department Fire Marshals office determined the cause of the fire to be a malfunctioning space heater in the second floor apartment. All crews were picked up and returned to service by 15:32 hours.

G. Kilpatrick photo- Ventilation continues as windows are removed on the C-D corner.



G. Kilpatrick photo- Tower 21 in operation with Chief of Department (bottom left) in command



G. Kilpatrick photo- Quint 21-3 and quint 21-2 in operation on the fire ground.



G. Kilpatrick photo- Tower 21 begins to ventilate the A-B corner of the second floor.