

ENDICOTT BATTLES HOARDING CONDITIONS AT MORNING FIRE

Story & photos by Nick Griswold

Shortly after 08:30 on the morning of March 18, 2014, Broome County Communications dispatched Endicott Fire for a reported basement fire at 113 Roosevelt Ave in the village.

Engine 25-1, Squad 25, and Chief 25 all responded with a total of 6 personnel. Chief 25 arrived and reported heavy smoke showing from a two and a half story wood frame residence and requested a 2nd alarm.



Firefighters vent second floor windows as others try to contain the fire.



Master streams are used to try and contain the fire.

On the 2nd alarm, a total recall of Endicott Fire off duty, Endwell Fire for an Engine 31-1, Vestal Fire for Tower 32-1, Union Center Fire for Rescue 53, and West Corners Fire for a FAST Team were all dispatched. West Endicott Fire was also placed on standby along with Campville Fire and Vestal Fire's other stations.

An aggressive interior attack was initiated by the on duty crews. Lines were stretched initially to the basement and later to each floor to attack the fire. As crews advanced into the structure they encountered severe hoarding conditions on all four floors of the structure. These conditions severely hampered the progress of fire attack. Basement crews were able to knock down the majority of fire in the basement however as fire traveled through the walls to the second floor and attic crews had extreme trouble reaching and digging out fire on the second floor and in the attic.

Crews continued for over 30 minutes to attack the fire from inside the structure with little success. At that point due to fire progression, and the hoarding conditions being encountered, command made the decision to clear the building and go defensive. All crews were called out of the building and master streams were set up. About this time Ladder 32-4 arrived on scene and was set up in front of the fire building for master stream operations.

Firefighters continued to flow water for several hours before the decision was made to bring in an excavator to help tear down parts of the structure in order to make it safe for operations to continue. DPW brought in their trackhoe and were directed to remove the porch and roof from the front of the structure. They also then removed some portions of the attic that were hanging near the front of the structure.



Ladder 32-4 trains its master stream on the attic.



Ladder 32-4 continues to train its master stream on the attic.

Crews were then able to finish knocking down hotspots and finish overhaul of the structure. All units were clear from the scene by about 14:00 hours. Firefighters were assisted on scene by Union Ambulance, Endicott Police, Endicott Police Auxiliary, Endicott DPW, Town of Union, and NYSEG.

MORE PHOTOS BELOW



Overhaul continues in an attempt to douse hot spots



Command directs the excavator to tear the porch off the structure.



The excavator removes a portion of the attic in an attempt to make the structure safer.