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Fire Guts Abandoned House

Kent, Wash. - August 2, 2016- An abandoned house in the 23500 block of 98 Ave. S. was heavily damaged by a fire which started shortly before noon.

Firefighters from the Kent, Valley, and Renton RFAs could see a column of black smoke as they approached the two story house. When they arrived they found fire coming from the front and back of the house. Several neighbors reported that the house was abandoned.

Since there were no rescues to perform and because the house was abandoned, the incident commander directed crews to fight the fire defensively - meaning from the exterior, well outside any collapse zones.

After fighting the fire for 30 minutes, it was apparent that certain portions of the fire could not be reached from the outside. The IC then instructed crews to stop efforts, allowing the fire in the middle of the house to grow and burn away a portion of the roof. Once this took place, fire crews directed a large diameter hose stream mounted on the tip of a ladder truck into the house, extinguishing the main body of fire.

The fire is now fully extinguished and is under investigation. According to police, they have responded to the house before because of reports of transients. According to PSE, electrical power was not running to the house prior to the fire. Because there is no other reason for the fire to have started, investigators are considering this fire to have been arson.

In addition to firefighters, the Zone 3 Fire Explorers, King County Medic One, and Kent Police also responded to the incident.

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