

# TIFFIN FIRE/RESCUE DIVISION

William S. Ennis, Jr., Chief  
53 S. Monroe St.  
Tiffin, OH 44883  
(419) 448-5448  
Fax (419) 448-5421  
e-mail firechief@tiffinohio.gov



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**\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***  
**Highland Trailer Park Fire**

On 09-15-2013, at 0754hrs, the Tiffin City Dispatch Center received a report of a structure fire at the Highland Estates Trailer Park located at 686 S. Sandusky St. Initial reports indicated a fire within a vacant trailer at lot #28. Additional reports of the fire were received at the same time by the Seneca County Sherriff's Office. Unsure of the exact location of the fire, both the Tiffin Fire/Rescue Division and the Bascom Fire Department were dispatched. First responders were advised by a bystander who was on scene there were still people inside the structure. The bystander further advised that he had attempted to gain entry into the residence prior to the fire department's arrival, but was unable due to the fire and heat conditions inside the structure.

At 0758hrs, Tiffin Fire/Rescue arrived on scene and found a working structure fire with smoke throughout the structure and flames exiting from windows on the north side of the trailer. Advised by a Tiffin Police Officer that children and an adult were trapped inside, firefighters initiated an aggressive fire attack and search and rescue operation. Upon forcing entry to the trailer, firefighters could hear the sounds of working smoke detectors inside the structure.

At 0803hrs, firefighters had extinguished the main body of the fire and were continuing to conduct a search of the residence. At 0808hrs, firefighters removed the four reported female victims found in the back of the trailer in a bedroom and hallway area. The victims were removed from the structure and moved to Tiffin and Bascom ambulances. They began on scene treatment and transported the victims to Tiffin Mercy ER for treatment.

Firefighters located the adult male in the front bedroom he was moved to a Bascom ambulance and transported to the hospital for treatment. Firefighters found the sixth victim under a pile of clothing in the same area where the adult male victim was discovered. Evidence at the scene suggests the adult male victim had placed the child under the clothing and then placed himself between the child and fire in order to protect the child from the fire. The baby was moved to a Tiffin Fire/Rescue ambulance and transported to the hospital for treatment. Resuscitation efforts continued at Mercy ER but were unsuccessful.

A joint investigation by the State Fire Marshal's Office, the Tiffin Fire/Rescue Division and the

Tiffin Police Department was conducted at the fire scene. During the investigation, evidence of both smoking and burning candles were found in the area of origin. There was no evidence of a criminal act found during the investigation. As a result of the investigation, the cause of the fire has been ruled officially undetermined.

The Tiffin Fire and Rescue Division would like to remind everyone about the importance of safe smoking. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, every year, almost 1,000 smokers and non-smokers are killed in home fires caused by cigarettes and other smoking materials. The U.S. Fire Administration is working to help prevent home fire deaths and injuries caused by smoking materials. Fires caused by cigarettes and other smoking materials are preventable. In addition, with an average 42 home candle fires being reported every day please do not leave candles burning unattended in your residence. For further information on smoking or candle safety please visit the U.S. Fire Administrations website or contact your local fire department.

Evidence suggests that the smoke detectors alerted the occupants. Please remember with the upcoming time change “Change Your Clock, Change Your Batteries” in your smoke detectors.

Fire Chief William S. Ennis Jr.