



City of Monroe Fire Department
75 Scott St. Monroe MI 48161 734-241-1626
Fire Chief Robert Wight



PRESS RELEASE

Date: 12/5/2018

Monroe FD Case #: 2018-3765

Incident: Fire at 611 N Telegraph, Monroe MI - Nortel Lanes

Media Contact:

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Fire Chief
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At approximately 2:29 AM the morning of December 5, 2018, the Monroe Fire Department responded to a call at 611 North Telegraph Road on report of a fire at the site of Nortel Lanes bowling alley. Upon arrival, within four minutes of dispatch, the site was found to be engulfed in flames. Assessing that the situation was a Second Alarm Fire, City of Monroe off-duty firefighters, PSOs, as well as firefighters from neighboring Monroe Township, Frenchtown Township and Berlin Township were called to the scene to assist. In total, approximately 30 staff were on hand to address the fire and secure the site.

Initial site analysis determined the age and roof design of the building prohibited firefighters from entering the property to extinguish the fire internally.

Fire Chief Robert Wight: "The roof design consisted of bowstring construction, utilized for structures that had large, open spaces with no supporting columns in the middle. Unfortunately, the design is such that it collapses quickly when under stress from heat - not only collapsing downward, but can also force the load-bearing walls to collapse outward. For the safety of our personnel, our strategy was to go into defensive mode, which translates to no interior attacks."

The building was not occupied at the time of the fire, with staff reportedly departing the facility at approximately 11:00 PM. The Monroe Fire Department is investigating cause of the fire, which is unknown at this time. The property did not have a sprinkler system installed.

Chief Wight: "This is going to be a very difficult fire to investigate. Because of the extreme conditions and extent of the fire, it will be very difficult to determine a cause."

The fire was brought under control as of 8:00 AM. The structure is estimated to be a total loss. Belfour

"The mission of the Monroe Fire Department is to protect life and property while minimizing suffering and damage due to fire, medical and environmental emergencies. We are dedicated to protecting the lives and property of the citizens of the City of Monroe through public education, code enforcement and incident management."

Property Restoration was called out to secure the scene. The Red Cross was also on hand to provide support to emergency personnel.

Firefighters will be on site throughout the day hitting any remaining hot spots.

Chief Wight: "A sincere thank you to all our neighboring first responders and support personnel who arrived to assist us with this incident. We value your partnership and support."

During incident response and securing of the site, Telegraph Road was temporarily closed, but reopened at 7:20AM.

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