

CITY OF OLEAN
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE, BUILDING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

MEDIA RELEASE

Incident Number: 17-0001465

Information Contact: Robert Bell Fire Chief

Incident Type: Structure Fire Update

Date/Time of Incident: October 30, 2017 1:19 AM

Incident Location: 114 East Oak St.

Cause: Suspicious Fire under Investigation

Injuries: None

Agencies Involved: Olean City Fire Department, Olean Police Department, Mutual Aid Fire Departments: Allegany, Weston Mills, Portville, Hinsdale, Town of Olean

Narrative: On the above date and time Olean Fire Department responded to a report of a structure fire with people trapped. Upon arrival fire crews found a fire burning out a second story window with heavy smoke. Rescue of occupants involved both Olean Fire and Olean Police members. A woman was assisted down a ladder from the second story by Fire Fighter Nate Veno Olean Police Captain Langdon. Four occupants were (Two Adults Two Children) trapped on the third floor and were assisted down a ladder by Olean Police Patrolmen Schnell and Beggs. A forcible entry through a door was made by Olean Police Officer Patrolmen Baldwin in order to make and assist an occupant who was asleep and not aware of the situation at the structure.

After rescues were made, fire crews made entry into the structure and knocked down the fire in the second floor apartment. The fire had spread quickly into the third floor and the interior fire crew encountered high heat and heavy smoke conditions in the stairwell. The fire had breached the roof and the roof was sagging. At this time the interior crews were ordered out of the structure as a defensive attacked engaged.

The structure is considered a total loss due to heavy fire, water, and smoke damage.

The cause of the fire is suspicious and remains under investigation.

The incident has been turned over to the Olean Police Department Criminal Investigation Unit for continued investigation.

The rescue efforts of both Olean Fire and Police departments save the lives of six occupants at this incident.