



SHREVEPORT FIRE

D E P A R T M E N T

263 North Common Street, Shreveport, LA 71101
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Scott Wolverton
Fire Chief

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, January, 20 2015

Contact: Chief Fred Sanders at 318-673-6652 or 318-455-2411

Rutherford House Group Home in Historic Highland Heavily Damaged by Fire

At 6:20 PM, the Shreveport Fire Department responded to structure fire at 657 Wyandotte Street in the Highland community. Fire crews arrived on scene at 6:25 PM to discover heavy flames billowing from the windows and extending approximately 20 feet above the roof. The on-scene Incident Commander, Battalion Chief Gerald Newsome, immediately commanded a defensive attack to prevent firefighter injury after determining the property was unoccupied. The fire was brought under control by 7:20 PM.

The property is used as a Rutherford House group home but has been vacant since March 2015 and undergoing renovations. Witnesses told fire officials that a roofing contractor had used a heating torch on the roof prior to the onset of the fire.

The incident required the use of 3 fire engines, 1 ladder trucks, 1 heavy rescue trucks, 1 battalion chief and 1 medic unit. It took 26 firefighters an hour to extinguish flames. The origin and cause of this fire is under investigation.

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