



LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Francis L. Carroll, *Chief of Police*

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Blackbird Circle Fires Under Investigation

LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP (December 12, 2013) - On Wednesday, December 11, 2013, at 3:05 P.M., the Lower Providence Volunteer Fire Company, Lower Providence Township Police Department and Lower Providence Community Center Ambulance were dispatched to the report of a house fire in the 2000 block of Blackbird Circle in the Audubon Ridge subdivision of Lower Providence Township.

The initial arriving police officer reported heavy smoke in the area of the chimney of the residence and advised that a 55-year-old male occupant of the house required treatment for smoke inhalation. He was transported to Phoenixville Hospital. An additional three adult occupants of the residence were evacuated. Fire personnel arrived on the scene and additional assistance was requested from Jefferson Fire Company, Norristown Fire Department, Worcester Fire Company, Collegeville Fire Company, Black Rock Fire Company and Skippack Fire Company. The fire was brought under control.

Arrangements were made through the Red Cross to provide housing for the residents of the home as it had been rendered uninhabitable by the fire. A contractor secured the residence by boarding up the doors and windows. All fire units were clear of the scene by 6:25 P.M.

At 10:00 P.M., the Lower Providence Volunteer Fire Company, Lower Providence Township Police Department and Lower Providence Community Center Ambulance were dispatched again to the same residence. A next-door neighbor was reporting that they saw smoke coming from the roof and observed flames inside of the house. The initial arriving police officer observed heavy fire on both floors of the residence.

Additional fire units from the Collegeville Fire Company, Black Rock Fire Company, Collegeville Fire Company, Worcester Fire Company were requested and responded. The fire caused the roof to collapse and caused extensive damage to the interior of the residence. Fire units were on the scene until 4:30 A.M. There were no injuries.

A water main break occurred in the 700 block of Sunnyside Avenue during fire suppression operations at 1:50 A.M. Pennsylvania American Water Company was notified. A residence in the 700 block of Sunnyside Avenue sustained flooding in the basement due to the water main break. The Lower Providence Township Public Works Department responded and placed sand bags in the area to contain the water and treated the area for an icing condition.

The two fires are being investigated by the Lower Providence Township Fire Marshal, the Montgomery County Detective Bureau and the Pennsylvania State Police Fire Marshal. No cause for either of the fires has been determined at this point.

Chief Francis L. Carroll
1555 Hrs. 12/12/13