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Firefighters rescue toddler from second floor of burning home

By: Dawn Brown

The Halton Hills Fire Department rescued a three-year-old child from a house fire at 108 Tanners Drive on Tuesday, November 17. A mother and her young son were at home when the fire started.

After receiving multiple calls for a structure fire at 2:03pm, firefighters arrived on scene and discovered that the child was trapped on the second floor. Two firefighters entered the house and began searching upstairs despite zero visibility, as a result of thick smoke. Crews worked to hold back the flames on the floor below during the search. The child was found in a back bedroom and taken safely from the building.

"The crew did an absolutely amazing job locating that child," said Assistant Deputy Fire Chief, Bruce Morrison.

Once rescued, the young boy was reported as conscious and alert, but suffering the effects of smoke inhalation and turned over to Halton EMS. During the rescue, emergency medical services had called for an Ornge helicopter which was on route even before

the child had been taken from the house. The helicopter landed in the field across from the Acton Arena, and the child was airlifted to SickKids Hospital.

"I'm told he is alert and responsive and doing what a three-year-old does," Morrison said. "It's awesome news."

Both Acton pumpers and a Georgetown pumper as well as support crews were on hand to bring the fire under control, and firefighters had the fire knocked down by 2:40 p.m.

"It was a very stubborn, well seeded fire," Morrison explained. The fire had a good hold on the building especially in the area of origin.

At the time this article was written, the cause of the fire was still unknown. The Ontario Fire Marshal was working with the Fire Department's staff investigator to determine the cause.

Morrison also stated that there was \$225,000 in damages. The fire had included the first and second floors of the house and spread to the roof.

The Halton Hills Fire Department has teamed up with McKenzie



Smith Bennett Public School to collect donations for the family. As well as a three-year-old boy, the family also has a five-year-old daughter. Donations of cash or clothing—children's sizes three and five—can

be dropped off at the Acton Fire Station located at 21 Churchill Street South in Acton, or at HQ Station located 14007 10 Sideroad in Halton Hills. The Acton Fire Station is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day, and any-

one who wishes to help out can drop their donation off during those hours.

Acton firefighters will also be collecting clothes and money for the family

at this Saturday's Acton Santa Claus parade. For more information and updates check with the Acton Fire Fighter's Facebook page www.facebook.com/affa.d1/

Ted Tyler and Julie Conroy photos

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