

Overnight fire guts rural home; luckily no one hurt

Sunday night's extreme temperatures hampered the efforts of firefighters as they battled a blaze that eventually left a Campbellville house gutted.

The fire started at about 9:30 p.m. in a two-storey house at 242 Main St. Firefighters arriving on the scene were met with heavy smoke and flames visible in the basement of the home.

The two occupants escaped unharmed. Don Stewart, chief fire prevention officer for the Milton Fire Department, said damage to the home is pegged at \$200,000.

More than 30 firefighters and about 10 trucks from Milton, Halton Hills and Burlington were involved in the efforts to squelch the blaze. Because of added difficulties from the cold weather, Halton Hills assisted by sending a rehabilitation trailer — providing coffee and a warm resting place for the firefighters — and Burlington sent a pumper. The temperatures were causing nozzles and valves on the trucks to freeze, requiring a rotation of the vehicles.

Mr. Stewart said the fire started in the area of the home's fireplace. Occupants heard a noise, saw smoke arising from the floor, and quickly evacuated the home.

Investigation is ongoing as to the exact cause of the fire.

At press time yesterday, the home was unsafe for firefighters to enter due to the large amount of ice resulting from the firefighters' efforts. It was slippery, and the extra weight placed on the home added to the danger, Mr. Stewart said.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE
A firefighter gathers up the frozen hoses to be taken back to the fire station and thawed out.

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