



Village of Medina Fire Department

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Press Release

Medina Fire Department Responds to Structure Fire

September 8, 2008

*** For Immediate Release ***

The Medina Fire Department was dispatched for a structure fire at 108 Pearl Street at 10:19am Monday morning. Kwik-Fil convenience store called 911 reporting smoke from the neighboring two-story home. Also dispatched on the initial alarm was the Lyndonville Fire Department for a FAST Team and the Shelby Vol. Fire Company for a pumper; both automatic mutual assistance.

Chief Zinkievich, Captain Michael Maak, and firefighters arrived on scene to find heaving smoke coming from the front of structure. Crews advanced a hose line into the structure and found fire in the kitchen, extending into the living room area of an apartment. Crews quickly extinguished the fire, ventilated, and overhauled the structure.

Also assisting at the scene was the Ridgeway Vol. Fire Company with a rescue truck and the Albion Fire Department for with their aerial truck. The Middleport Fire Department was called to standby at the Medina Fire Station.

The fire was investigated by investigators from the Medina Fire Department and Orleans County Fire Investigation Unit. The fire was determined to have started from carelessly discarded cigarettes.

On December 31, 2003, former New York Secretary of State Randy A. Daniels announced the adoption of a fire safety standard for cigarettes that will require all cigarettes sold in New York State to be low ignition strength, making them less likely to cause fires if left unattended. The cigarette fire safety standard became effective June 28, 2004.

“By establishing a strict fire safety standard for cigarettes, New York State is taking aim at a significant cause of house fires and fire casualties - cigarettes,” said former Secretary of State Randy A. Daniels. “An unattended cigarette is like a fuse that can quickly ignite bedding, upholstery or other home furnishings. We have seen too many tragedies caused by the careless use of cigarettes, and this standard is designed to reduce that risk.”

“This standard does not apply to cigarettes sold on Indian Reservations, such as those involved in this fire,” said Jeffrey Elsenheimer Jr., public information officer. For more information on fire safe cigarette legislation, visit <http://firesafecigarettes.com>.

“Obviously the best way to prevent fires linked to cigarette smoking is to quit,” urged Elsenheimer. “However, we realize that is very difficult for most people, so by following a few simple fire safety tips, you can help decrease your chances of a smoking related fire.”

- Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home. Test smoke alarm batteries every month and change them at least once a year. Consider installing a 10-year lithium battery-powered smoke alarm, which is sealed so it cannot be tampered with or opened.
- Never smoke in bed. Replace mattresses made prior to the 2007 Federal Mattress Flammability Standard.
- Don't put ashtrays on the arms of sofas or chairs.
- Use deep ashtrays and soak ashes in water before disposal.
- Don't leave cigarettes, cigars or pipes unattended. Put out all smoking materials before you walk away.
- If you begin to feel drowsy while watching television or reading, extinguish your cigarette or cigar.
- Close a matchbook before striking and hold it away from your body. Set your cigarette lighter on "low" flame.
- If smokers have visited, be sure to check the floor and around chair cushions for ashes that may have been dropped accidentally.
- Develop and practice a fire escape plan. In case of a fire, crawl or stay low to the ground, beneath the smoke, and use the escape plan you have worked out. Get out and stay out.

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For More Information:

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