



June 7, 2009

Livonia house fire blamed on dryer

A dryer fire caused an estimated \$100,000 damage to the contents and structure of a Livonia home Tuesday.

No one was hurt in the blaze, which started at 7:31 a.m. in the basement of the brick ranch east of Merriman and south of Seven Mile, said Earl Fesler, senior inspector for the Livonia Fire Department.

The fire started when lint got too close to the flame in the gas-fired appliance, he said.

"Lint is very combustible," he said, adding that lint screens need to be cleaned after every load and dryer exhausts need to be cleaned at least once a year. "A little flame will turn into a big fire."

The homeowner's adult daughter saw flames under the dryer when she went down the basement to put in another load of clothes. She alerted the other two family members, and they tried to extinguish the flames.

When they couldn't, they went outside and called 9-1-1.

Fesler said it was fortunate the daughter discovered the blaze. The home had no working smoke detector.

The homeowner's husband died in October, and the family lost precious photographs of him in the fire, Fesler said. "They took it really hard."

The home, which was insured, is uninhabitable. Most of the fire damage is in the basement.
