

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Postal workers save Westland man from home that caught fire

Valerie Olander / The Detroit News

Westland -- Quick thinking by two postal workers likely saved the life of a man and one of two dogs Tuesday morning as smoke from a dryer fire filled a small ranch home on Clayton Court, near Wildwood and Glenwood, fire officials said Wednesday.

"If they didn't wake this guy up it could have been a very unfortunate incident," said Capt. John Adams of the Westland Fire Department.

Adams said the man, in his 20s, had soot and ash in his nasal passages, a sign that he could have been overcome if postal carriers Sharon Roulo and Lori Boljesic had not banged on windows until he awoke.

One dog died of smoke inhalation.

The fire was contained to a small laundry closet, although smoke spread rapidly, Adams said. Lint in a dryer caused the flames.

The man's mother had put in a load of laundry and left the house. The fire started about 30 minutes later, Adams said.

Roulo was driving by and noticed the smoke, calling 911 and nearby carrier Boljesic, who typically delivered the route, to find out if people would be home.

Both began banging on windows.

The man who lives in the house and his mother are staying with friends since the house is uninhabitable due to fire and smoke damage.

volander@detnews.com (734) 462-2203

Find this article at:

http://www.detnews.com/article/20090610/METRO01/906100445/Postal-workers-save-Westland-man-from-home-that-caught-fire

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

© Copyright 2008 The Detroit News. All rights reserved.

