



City of
BELOIT, Wisconsin

Bradley J. Liggett, Fire Chief

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Home Destroyed By Explosion

[Beloit, WI]— City of Beloit Fire Department responded to a home explosion at 2041 Meridith Drive in the City of Beloit at 7:40 p.m. on Sunday, July 7, 2013. First arriving units found the home to be totally destroyed, with debris on fire. The initial scene assessment revealed that there were two people trapped, fires were quickly extinguished and rescue operations undertaken. The City of Beloit initiated MABAS Box 10-11 and 10-17 for firefighting and technical rescue resources. The Department was assisted by 19 other departments. The Fire Department evacuated adjacent homes and Alliant Energy was called to the scene to assist in identifying the source of any natural gas leak and then also to clear adjacent homes for any potential secondary leaks. Alliant Energy also shut off power to the affected residence. The rescue in a collapse building is a highly technical rescue requiring special resources. The Stateline Technical Rescue Team, headquartered in Beloit, was activated and performed the rescues of removing the two victims from the collapsed home. The first victim was a 33 year old female who suffered burns and was transported by ambulance to Mercy Hospital in Janesville. Patient #2 was a 37 year old male patient who suffered burns and was transported by helicopter to UW Hospital in Madison, WI. Also involved were two family pets, one perished and one survived. The property was rental property owned by **James R. and Beverly A. Long** of Beloit. The home is valued at \$48,500.00 was totally destroyed. The City of Beloit Fire

Department has requested the assistance of the Wisconsin State Fire Marshal's Office, investigators will meet at 9:00 p.m. this morning to conduct the investigation. The Beloit Police Department secured the scene through the night. It is suspect that a natural gas explosion occurred, this has to be confirmed with physical evidence in the fire scene examination. The Department will issue a press release regarding a press conference when further information is ready to be released. The victim's names are being withheld pending notification of family members. Rock County 9-1-1 Center received over 20 calls for this incident when it occurred. No further information is available at this time.