

# THE Messenger

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## **Dogs perish, man suffers minor injuries in Otho fire**

**Home destroyed**



-Messenger photo by Peter Kaspari Fire fully engulfs the home at 605 N. Highway Street in Otho Wednesday morning. The fire claimed the lives of dogs that were inside the home.

**OTHO —** A morning house fire in Otho Wednesday claimed the lives of dogs that were inside the home.

The fire at 605 N. Highway St. was reported at 8:57 a.m.

The house was a total loss, according to Otho Fire Chief Marty Smith.

Firefighters from Otho, Duncombe and Moorland all responded to extinguish the blaze.





-Messenger photo by Peter Kaspari Two firefighters emerge from the smoke battling a house fire in Otho Wednesday morning.

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However, there wasn't much they could do to save the house.

*"The thing was completely involved when we arrived," Smith said. "All you can do is try to knock it down the best you can."*

While the fire destroyed the house, firefighters were able to spare the house directly to the south, which is just a few feet away from the burned property.

*"We were fairly lucky," Smith said. "It started in the north side of the house and we were able to control it from spreading to the south side of the house."*

The wind was coming from the north.



-Messenger photo by Peter Kaspari A Moorland firefighter clears debris during a house fire in Otho Wednesday.

*“We stopped it in that end of the house so it didn’t spread to the adjacent property,” Smith said.*

An investigation revealed the fire was caused by items that were too close to an electric fireplace.

Douglas James, 62, was the only person inside the home when the fire began. He was taken to UnityPoint Health — Trinity Regional Medical Center for treatment of his injuries.

The extent of those injuries was not known.

There were also dogs that were inside the home at the time of the fire. They did not survive. It was not immediately known how many dogs were in the house.





-Messenger photo by Peter Kaspari Moorland firefighters work to put out a fire at the base of a garage in Otho Wednesday.

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Smith said firefighters were on scene for about two and a half hours.

The Otho/Duncombe Police Department, Dayton Police Department and Fort Dodge Police Department were also on scene.



-Messenger photo by Peter Kaspari Firefighters from Otho and Moorland battle a fully-involved fire in Otho Wednesday.



-Messenger photo by Peter Kaspari Firefighters from Duncombe and Moorland battle flames to extinguish a house fire in Otho Wednesday.





-Messenger photo by Peter Kaspari Firefighters work to extinguish a fully-involved house fire in Otho Wednesday.





-Messenger photo by Peter Kaspari A Moorland firefighter sprays water on a house to extinguish the fire that had engulfed the building.

