

Hailey Fire Dept.
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HOUSE FIRE

620 ½ N Main

On April 17, 2016, in the early morning hours, the Hailey Fire Department was called to investigate a smell of smoke in the area of 620 N. Main Street. Hailey Police Officer Todd Peck arrived at the scene and reported smoke coming from the residence of 620 ½ N. Main Street. Deputy Fire Chief Mike Baledge upgraded the call to a structure fire, which automatically dispatched Wood River Fire and Rescue as well as Bellevue Fire Department.

Deputy Chief Baledge arrived on scene to find the fire in a smoldering (decay) stage. The fire started some time during the night and burned undetected during the night until the next morning when employees opening a neighboring gas station smelled the smoke and called 911.

The first fire company on scene did a quick search of the inside of the structure and found the home owner, 70-year-old Michael Root, near his bed. Mr. Root was taken outside and resuscitation efforts were attempted by the medical crew. The attempts were unsuccessful. Mr. Root was the only occupant.

The fire started in the living room and was confined to the interior contents of the structure. The cause of the fire remains undetermined. The lack of smoke detectors in the structure could be a factor that led to Mr. Root's death.

The Hailey Fire Department would like to remind its citizens of the free smoke detector program. For more information on the free smoke detector program contact Deputy Chief Baledge at 788-3147.