



NEWS RELEASE

CLAY FIRE

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CLAY FIRE RESPONDS TO HOUSE EXPLOSION IN CLAY TOWNSHIP

CLAY TOWNSHIP, IN — On September 29, 2018 at approximately 07:50 AM, Clay Fire units were dispatched to the 19,000 block of Greenacre Street for a reported explosion with a house on fire. The explosion was heard more than a mile away. Clay Fire crews quickly arrived on the scene to find a well-involved structure fire with flames extending from the first floor to the second story of the address. Crews were able to rapidly knock down the fire and contain the blaze within fifteen minutes of their arrival. Three firefighters from Clay Fire sustained non-life-threatening injuries during the fire fight. There was significant damage to the building from the explosion; however, the damage was limited to the structure of origin. The cause of the explosion and the fire remain under investigation.

Corporal Chris Boling, a police officer with the St. Joseph County Police Department, was only a few blocks away from the scene at the time of the incident. Corporal Boling responded to the incident address to provide assistance, becoming the first emergency responder to arrive on the scene slightly before personnel and equipment from Clay Fire. He observed a fire on the first floor of the address with smoke and flames extending to the second floor of the home. Bystanders reported there was an occupant trapped on the second floor of the house. Corporal Boling entered the house, which was filling with smoke and flames, where he located the occupant of the home trapped beneath debris from the explosion. Thanks to Corporal Boling's bravery and quick thinking, he was able to improvise a lever to free the victim from the debris. Both men were then able to retreat from the building to safety. Corporal Boling and the occupant sustained injuries, including burns and smoke inhalation, and they were transported to Memorial Hospital of South Bend for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.



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