

The Oakland Press (theoaklandpress.com), Serving Oakland County

News

WITH VIDEO: One dead, one injured and stabbed in Orion Township house fire

Monday, August 23, 2010

By DAVE PHILLIPS
Of The Oakland Press

A body has been found inside an Orion Township home that caught fire early Sunday afternoon, and a woman with multiple stab wounds was also found at the residence.

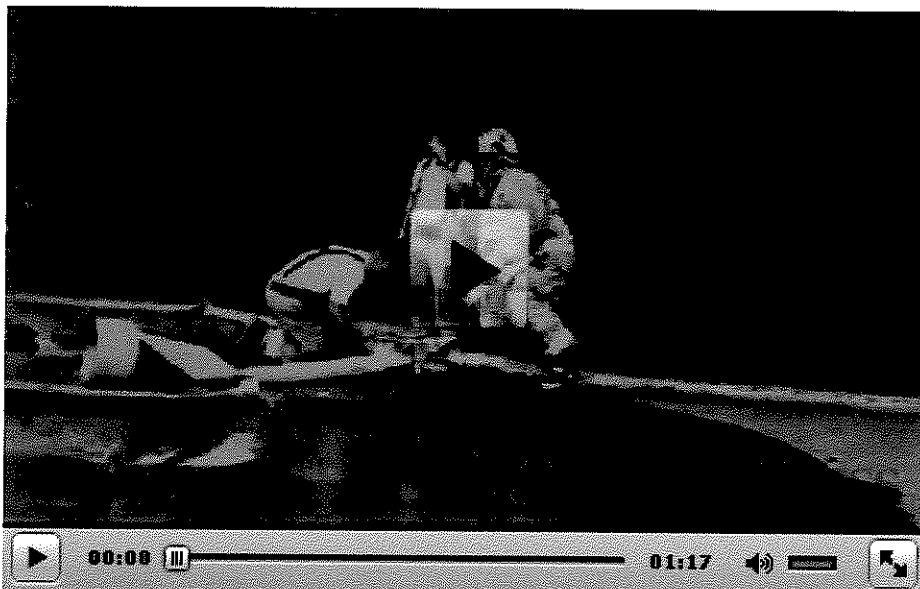
Officials say the fire may have been intentionally set.

Deputies with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office, along with the Orion Township Fire Department, were called to a home in the 300 block of West Greenshield Road for a fully engulfed structure fire around 12:48 p.m. Sunday. Upon their arrival, officers found the woman, who was a resident of the home and had multiple stab wounds that were not self-inflicted, according to police.

The woman, 56, was taken to a local hospital and was listed in stable condition Sunday evening in the intensive care unit.

The man's body was found in a vehicle inside the garage, police said.

An investigation is ongoing, and identities have not been released.



A plethora of emergency vehicles and personnel descended upon the quiet neighborhood, just west of Lapeer Road, throughout Sunday afternoon. Firefighters from Oxford and Oakland townships were on hand, hauling water from the nearest fire hydrant, which was at the corner of Lapeer and West Greenshield. Many deputies, a tracking dog, a forensic evidence technician and a fire investigator from the Oakland County Sheriff's Office were also called to the scene.

The home burned to the ground very quickly, according to witnesses.

The media was kept approximately 2,000 feet away from the scene, but a neighbor told The Oakland Press that the woman was taken from the home with apparent burns on her arms and legs.

"We just saw a flame like you wouldn't believe," said Steven Pursley, who lives in the area and was working on a vehicle with a neighbor when they saw smoke coming from the house.

"There was a puff of smoke, and we knew something wasn't right as soon as we saw it. There were so many flames going on, it was so unbelievable. It was crazy. It all collapsed in. Just a ball of flames."

Pursley said he got to the house even before firefighters arrived and watched the inferno for about 45 minutes.

"They pulled a woman out," Pursley said. "From my understanding, she was in the backyard. She wasn't in the house. I don't know exactly what happened. Where (her husband) is at — I don't know. I don't know if they got him out. It was a mess — an absolute disaster back there."

Pursley said he didn't know the victims particularly well, but they were familiar faces.

"We see them drive by, and every time you wave to them of course," he said.

The area is not usually the scene of such activity, Pursley said.

"It's an old dirt road," he said. "Nothing goes on like this. It's a pretty quiet street."

Contact staff writer Dave Phillips at 248-745-4631 or dave.phillips@oakpress.com. Follow him on Twitter @dave_phillips1.

URL: <http://www.theoaklandpress.com/articles/2010/08/23/news/doc4c719cea3b4f4882706569.prt>

© 2010 theoaklandpress.com, a Journal Register Property