

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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EARLY MORNING FIRE IN ONALASKA

Onalaska Police Officers Shawn Colgan and Justin Kingery were dispatched to 501 13th Ave South early this morning for a possible fire. First on scene Officer Colgan observed several people standing in proximity to the east side of the building which is an assisted living facility. As he approached one of the bystanders informed Officer Colgan that they could hear screams for help issuing from within the building. Officer Colgan quickly ascertained that the source of the cries for help was an apartment on the east side of the building. When he attempted to gain entry he found the door to be locked. As Officer Colgan was attempting to gain entry Officer Kingery arrived on scene. After checking for active flames Officers Colgan and Kingery forced the door. The apartment was engulfed in thick black smoke and the occupant, Patricia Jacobs was trapped and unable to move. Officers Colgan and Kingery made their way into the apartment, located Ms. Jacobs and pulled her to safety.

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Officers Colgan and Kingery were evaluated for smoke inhalation at Gundersen and released.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.