

- Daily Leader staff report

A Wednesday afternoon residential fire at 1221 Charles St. not only left the home uninhabitable, but took the life of the family pet before the flames were successfully extinguished by the Liberal Fire Department.



“The Liberal Fire Department responded to a reported residential structure fire on Wednesday at 2:53 p.m.,” Chief Kelly Kirk said in a press release. “Prior to arrival of the first fire units, police units arriving on scene reported flames showing from three sides of the residence. First arriving fire units found that the attached garage and attic area of the residence was fully involved.”

Upon arrival, it took the fire department approximately 30 minutes to deem the fire under control. However, emergency response units stayed on the scene until shortly after 5 p.m.

“Firefighters immediately initiated a defensive fire attack with the goal of knocking down the main body of fire while protecting a residence west of the fire building that was threatened by flames and radiant heat,” Kirk said. “The fire was controlled in approximately 30 minutes and firefighters remained on scene until 5:05 p.m.

extinguishing spot fires and investigating the origin and cause.”

Although all individuals at the residence were successfully retrieved from the home, a family pet was killed as a result of the fire. A firefighter involved also sustained a minor injury and was treated at the scene.

“All occupants of the residence were unharmed, however a family pet perished in the fire,” the

Southside fire destroys home

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release noted. "One firefighter suffered a minor burn extinguishing the blaze and was treated by Seward County EMS on scene."

The house was ruled a total loss due to the damage sustained during the fire. The exact cause of the fire is still under investigation.

"The residence suffered extensive damage and was rendered uninhabitable," Kirk said. "Also assisting with the fire were Liberal Police Department, Seward County EMS and American Red Cross. Due to extensive fire damage, the area of origin for this fire has been determined. However, the exact cause remains under investigation."