Fires occur within weeks of each other, cause several thousands in damage

By Emily Battmer, Robert Overmann and Bethany Boyle
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The Kirksville Fire Department responded to two house fires during the past two weeks. Electrical malfunction is suspected to have caused both.

Firefighters responded to a fire at a 700 block of N. Osteopathy St. One firefighter was injured and is in learning, said David Rigdon, Kirksville’s Fire Department Battalion Chief. The nature of the firefighter’s injuries are unknown. None of the residents were injured in the fire.

The fire began shortly before midnight.

Thought to be electrical, the fire started near the oven and spread throughout the house. No one property damage was estimated at $10,000 with an additional $20,000 damage to the house’s contents.

Firefighters responding to a house fire Sept. 4 around 5 p.m. at the 500 block of N. Osteopathy St. The fire fighter suffered a shoulder injury while fighting the house. He was treated and later released.

No residences were home at the time of the fire, said Marc Jefferson, Kirksville Fire Department Battalion Chief. The nature of the firefighter’s injuries are unknown. None of the residents were injured in the fire.

The fire was out by about 2 a.m., and Fire Department personnel left the scene at 2 a.m., said Marc Jefferson. The fire was controlled within an hour, and Fire Department personnel left the scene at 11:30 a.m.

Both Jefferson and Rigdon said Firefighters were able to extinguish the fire quickly.

The Kirksville Fire Department responds to an average of 50 fires each year.

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