

Shelby County Fire Department

Headquarters

1075 Mullins Station Rd. Bldg. "C", 2nd floor

Memphis, TN 38134



******* EVENT NOTIFICATION *******

Date: January 15, 2013

Just after 10PM last night, dispatchers at the Shelby County Fire Department began receiving calls reporting a house on fire in the 9200 block of Curling Pond in Lakeland. A "full assignment" was initiated and multiple fire engine companies responded from Shelby County, Arlington and Memphis Fire Departments. In all, six engine and truck companies arrived with 25 firefighters to battle the blaze.

The first engine company on the scene (SCFD Rescue 66) reported fire and smoke showing from the back and the side of the 2,167 square foot home. As additional engines continued to arrive Rescue 66 fire fighters mounted an offensive attack through the front of the home in an effort to push the fire out through the back, while executing a search pattern in their attempt to locate any individual who might be in the home.

It was during this search and consequential attack on the fire that the combined efforts from the crews of SCFD Rescue 66 and Arlington Fire Snorkel 71, located a victim within the house. 70 year-old Barbara Clark of Lakeland was found deceased near the front of the structure.

The fire was knocked down in roughly fifteen minutes and the Fire Marshal was requested to the scene to start an investigation into the location and cause of the fire. It has not yet been determined what specifically started the fire. While very cold temperatures were present during the event, fire fighters were not hampered in their attack on the blaze. The home was equipped with hard wired smoke detectors.

The structure suffered moderate to heavy damage and there were no injuries to emergency crews. An update will be issued after investigators release their findings into the cause of this home fire. This is the first fire fatality responded to by the Shelby County Fire Department in 2013.