

## **Structure Fire at 216 W. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

No serious injuries were sustained, however, six emergency responders were treated at Coffeyville Regional Medical Center as a result of a fire in a vacant structure on Saturday. At 11:46 a.m. on January 25 the Coffeyville Fire Department was dispatched to a structure fire at 216 W. Second. When fire personnel arrived, flames had burned through the wall on the west side of the structure around the electric meter and smoke was coming from the eaves of the roof and had extended into the attic/roof area.

Fire Captain Wayne Joplin stated, “an attempt was made to gain entry through the front of the structure but this proved to be difficult as all windows and door openings were covered with layers of wood for security purposes.” The building was unoccupied and used for storing furniture, building materials and other household items.

After using a power saw to gain entry, firefighters used a thermal imager to assist with locating the seat of the fire. Soon after entering the building, a catastrophic failure of the roof occurred. The roof, ceiling and parts of the south and west walls of the structure collapsed injuring Lieutenants Joe Rexwinkle and Derrick Messner along with Firefighters Josh Mecom and Will Rosson. Messner, who was outside at the window opening when the collapse occurred, assisted Rexwinkle and Rosson by pulling both from the interior collapse.

Firefighter Mecom was knocked to the ground and trapped by the west wall that fell outward. “Firefighter Todd Hayes, Police Officer Justin Hanigan and EMT Nate Keylon were able to rescue Mecom by lifting the wall and pulling him to safety,” stated Joplin. Hanigan and Keylon also sustained injuries, and all six injured were transported to CRMC where they were treated and released.

The South Coffeyville Fire Department assisted with bringing the fire under control. The structure at 214 W. Second received minor fire damage. The cause of the fire has been determined to be electrical with the initial burn around the electrical service box.

The owners of the building are Alberta Kendall and James of Allen. The building, which was insured, was completely destroyed.