

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sunday, September 04, 2011

Lt. Rudy Fisher, Incident Commander
Acting Chief Mike Heston

EARLY MORNING FIRE DAMAGES VACATED APARTMENT BUILDING

PULLMAN—Pullman Police officer Todd Dow was patrolling South Grand Avenue early Sunday morning when he noticed smoke coming out of the two-story South Grand Apartment building that had been vacant for several years.

When he got closer to the structure at 805 S. Grand Ave., he could see flames from an apartment unit in the interior courtyard and immediately notified the fire department just before 1 a.m.

The apartment building is located about two blocks from the main fire station and as crews arrived flames were visible from at least one apartment unit and smoke was seen pouring out the attic vents throughout the structure.

Crews from both Pullman and Whitman County Rural District 12 managed to keep the fire contained to several units. Many of the vacant apartment units were used for storage by Living Faith Fellowship, a church that owns the building.

Fire investigator Tony Nuttman spent several hours looking through the structure and said that the cause of the fire at this point is undetermined pending further investigation. Nuttman said natural gas and electricity had been disconnected from the building. Police officers said they found a couple of the doors unlocked and they reported that they have found transients living in the building in the past. One was seen in or near the building on Saturday.

The estimate of damage is pending further review with the owner and its insurance carrier.

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(Written by Glenn Johnson, PFD/PIO)