

BUY PHOTO REPRINTS ONLINE

OFF the WALL GAMES Look for us at ConBust at Smith College March 26-28

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS **MAGIC** **WARHAMMER 40,000**

\$12 Thursday Night Draft

Games Workshop, the Games Workshop logo, Warhammer, Space Marine, the Warhammer 40,000 Device and all associated names and race insignia, marks, names, characters, illustrations and images from the Warhammer 40,000 and Warhammer universes are either TM and/or © Games Workshop Ltd 2000-2008, variably registered in the UK and other countries around the world. All Rights Reserved. The copyright in the artwork and the images it depicts is the exclusive property of Games Workshop Ltd. Copyright Games Workshop Ltd. 2008. All rights reserved.

Hours: Mon 12-10, Wed - Sun 10-10, Closed on Tues - 41 Russell St (Hampton Inn Plaza), Hadley - 413-586-5451 - www.offthewallgamestore.com

SUBSCRIBE TO THE GAZETTE ONLINE OR IN PRINT

GAZETTENET.com

Daily Hampshire Gazette - Established 1786

Amherst Bulletin The Recorder Valley Advocate Pioneer Valley Many Hands Hampshire Life

Sign out Account Trouble finding something? Contact us Classifieds

news search

Local News State/Region U.S./World Obituaries Sports Business Schools Colleges Politics Opinion Entertainment Health Living Sci/Tech

Fire displaces Amherst tenants

By CATHERINE BAUM Staff Writer

Email this page Printer-friendly version

Monday, December 7, 2009

AMHERST - A fire that broke out in a Meadow Street apartment early Sunday morning caused extensive damage, injured one fire captain and displaced approximately 12 tenants in six units at Townhouse of Amherst Apartments.

The fire captain suffered a shoulder injury while fighting the blaze at apartment No. 86, according to a statement released by the Amherst Fire Department. The statement did not identify the fire captain by name, and the Fire Department dispatcher declined to release any additional information. The injury did not require transport to the hospital, but the captain is now on injured leave. No other injuries were reported. The cause of the fire is currently unknown.

The residents of the apartment were not home when the fire broke out. They spent the weekend in Canada on a UMass Ski and Board Club outing, according to Henry Elsemann, who texted his two male neighbors early Sunday morning to inform them of the incident.

"I said, 'You're 86 right? Your house is on fire,'" said Elsemann, a senior at UMass. "They called me in disbelief and were like, 'Are you sure?'"



KEVIN GUTTING

Unit 86 at the Townhouse of Amherst apartments on Meadow Street in North Amherst was damaged by fire early Sunday morning. The tenants were not home at the time.



Valley Home Improvement has become the first contractor in western Massachusetts to undertake MassSAVE's Major Renovation pilot program.



VALLEY HOME IMPROVEMENT, INC. DESIGN BUILD • 584-7522 www.valleyhomeimprovement.com - KITCHENS • BATHS • ADDITIONS • SUNROOMS -



Popular stories

- Discount supermarket eyes Hadley opening
- Longtime Thornes cafe may bow out
- Teddy Forance goes Hollywood: Local dancer to take the stage during the Academy Awards ceremonies
- Amherst superintendent fires back at critics regarding sick leave
- South Hadley parent sues, alleging harassment after secret recordings came to light

Elsemann said he, too, was surprised, in part because his neighbors are tidy people. He noted one of the two UMass students is particularly careful about keeping items away from the heater and electrical wires and cords in order.

"When it comes to closing up shop he went by the book," said Elsemann, who congregated with displaced tenants Philip Panaitescu and Karol Gawrych outside of the management building Sunday afternoon. The UMass students said they had belongings they needed in their apartments, which they couldn't get to because the hallway doors were padlocked. Townehouse Management Associates agents returned Elsemann's call at 2:45 p.m. Sunday to say they were gone for the day and to come back at 8 a.m. Monday.

"I'm terribly disappointed," said Elsemann, who said he needed his laptop computer to prepare for a test today. "I mean, that's a bit early to call it a day."

Displaced tenants were allowed to collect "bare essential" belongings, Elsemann said, and then were relocated by management and the Red Cross to local hotels.

Tenants of another apartment reported they smelled smoke in the hallway at 12:19 a.m. Sunday. Emergency responders found fire and smoke coming from the first floor of the two-story building, and forced entry to the apartment. The fire was brought under control approximately 20 minutes after the initial call, according to the statement.

"They started throwing burning furniture out of the window," said Nathaniel Kahler, who lives in the apartment complex. Remnants of a burnt couch were visible Sunday outside the building, which was blocked off with caution tape.

Apartment No. 86 sustained extensive fire damage to the first floor and significant heat and smoke damage to the second floor, according to the department, which didn't have a dollar estimate for the damage Sunday. Emily Howard, UMass junior and Elsemann's girlfriend, said she got a peek inside the apartment from the hallway early Sunday morning.

"Everything was just black," she said.

The first-floor common corridor also has significant heat and smoke damage, but the other apartment units in the building were not damaged, according to the statement. The town's building and electrical inspectors ordered one half of the building closed due to issues with the electrical system, according to the statement.

The Amherst, Northampton, Belchertown fire departments and Amherst Police Department responded to the scene.

Catherine Baum can be reached at cbaum@gazettenet.com.

Filed Under: [amherst](#) [fire](#) [local](#) [news](#) [video](#)

Comments

Mon, 12/07/2009 - 10:37 — [dwright](#)

[management?](#)

"A fire that broke out in a Meadow Street apartment **early Sunday morning**" and "Townehouse Management Associates agents returned Elsemann's call at 2:45 p.m. Sunday to say they were gone for the day and to come back at 8 a.m. Monday" -- what kind of management is this?!

▪ [reply](#)

Post new comment

Your name:

[Catherine Baum](#)

Subject:

Comment: *

Input format

Filtered HTML

- Web page addresses and e-mail addresses turn into links automatically.
- Allowed HTML tags: <a> <i> <code> <cite> <div>
- Lines and paragraphs break automatically.

Full HTML

- Web page addresses and e-mail addresses turn into links automatically.
- Lines and paragraphs break automatically.

unfiltered HTML

[More information about formatting options](#)



[Local News](#) | [State/Region](#) | [U.S./World](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Sports](#) | [Business](#) | [Schools](#) | [Colleges](#) | [Politics](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Health](#) | [Living](#) | [Sci/Tech](#) | [Blogs](#)

[Copyright Notice](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Help Center](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Subscribe to the Gazette](#) | [Advertising](#)

Daily Hampshire Gazette © 2008 All rights reserved