



NORTH PLAINFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
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NEWS RELEASE

STRUCTURE FIRE

North Plainfield BORO., N.J. North Plainfield Police Chief Alan McKay announced that on Monday, December 22, 2025, at approximately 8:12 pm, The NPPD / NPPD was dispatched to a structure fire at 217 Meadowbrook Drive, North Plainfield NJ. On arrival officers observed the residence to be ablaze with the two residents / occupants standing on the front lawn.

NPPD Officers confirmed that all the occupants of the home made it safely out of the fire.

North Plainfield, Plainfield and Watchung Fire Departments responded and worked on extinguishing the fire for almost two hours. Firefighters and officers were confronted with flames and heavy smoke but were able to contain the fire mostly to the basement area of the residence.

The residents who made it out uninjured are identified as William & Renee Smith, both of 217 Meadowbrook Drive North Plainfield NJ 07060.

The home suffered major damage caused by the fire, smoke and water. The home is currently uninhabitable and the occupants are staying with friends and declined assistance from the Red Cross.

The matter remains under investigation. NPPD personnel believe the fire may have started in the basement area, possibly from a lit cigarette that was left near some papers.

Chief McKay requests anyone with information relating to this incident contact the North Plainfield Police Department Criminal Investigation Division at (908) 769-2937.

NOTE: *The following information is based on a preliminary and ongoing investigation, which continues to evolve as investigators interview witnesses, review physical and electronic records, and analyze forensic evidence. The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office's understanding of the facts and circumstances may change as additional evidence is collected and analyzed.*

Alan McKay, Chief of Police
An Accredited Law Enforcement Agency