

Kokomo man dies in house fire

6-18-93

A Kokomo man died early this morning in a fire that started near the bed where firefighters discovered his body.

Keith E. Abresch, 39, 1220½ S. Union St., was pronounced dead by Howard County Coroner Jeff Stout at 2:55 a.m. today at the scene of the fire. Laboratory results showed the cause of death was smoke inhalation, Stout said.

The cause of the blaze was under investigation this morning, with Fire Inspector Ronald D. Herrell on the scene at Kokomo Tribune news deadline.

Kokomo firefighters were called to 1220 S. Union St. at 2:06 a.m. by the residents of the apartment below Abresch's, Stout said. Those residents, Leon Barnes and his wife, whose name was not available this morning, were the only other inhabitants of the two-apartment house. They were not injured in the blaze.

Smoke damage to the upstairs apartment where Abresch lived was heavy, said Fire Chief Joseph Zuppardo, although no dollar figure on the damage was available. The lower apartment where the Barnes couple lived sustained water damage.

Fire officials said the American Red Cross Howard-Tipton Chapter is assisting Barnes and his wife after the fire.

Firefighters were on the scene for about three hours, after arriving to find the upstairs apartment engulfed in flames, said Battalion Chief Patrick C. O'Neill. Abresch's burnt body was found by firefighters in the northeast corner of a bedroom in the front portion of the home, Stout said.

The blaze began in that area, firefighters said.

The home is owned by Marge Onkes, 929 S. Buckeye St.

Fire cause still unknown

Kokomo fire investigators were today still trying to determine the cause of a fire that killed a Kokomo man Friday morning.

Fire Inspector Ronald D. Herrell said this morning a determination would hopefully be made by late today or Tuesday. The fire, which caused heavy damage to both apartments at 1220 S. Union St. early Friday, killed Keith E. Abresch, 39, who lived in the upstairs apartment of the house. Abresch died of smoke inhalation.

The fire's origin was determined to be the northeast corner of a bedroom in the apartment's front portion, where Abresch's body was found near a bed by firefighters. The blaze caused heavy damage to both apartments in the house.

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Keith Abresch

Keith E. Abresch, 39, 1220½ S. Union St., died at 2:06 a.m. Friday, June 18, 1993, in his home.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Monday in Eilers Mortuary Main Street Chapel. Michael Abresch will officiate. Burial will be at South Union Cemetery. Friends may call from 11 a.m. to service time Monday at the mortuary.