



**CITY OF OLEAN**  
**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

City of Olean Fire Department Press Release  
Structure Fire 346 West Highland Avenue

On Wednesday August 11 at 4:43 pm City of Olean Firefighters were alerted to a structure fire at 346 Highland Avenue. The City of Olean Fire Department's Engines arrived on scene at 4:47 pm to discover a 1 ½ Story, wood-frame residential structure with heavy smoke showing from the exterior and the resident outside with no other people inside. Crews initiated an interior attack and quickly found the living room heavily involved with fire. The bulk of the fire was extinguished at 4:54 pm and the resident's dog was also rescued by firefighters. Fire crews then began to open up the walls and ceiling to determine if the fire had extended to the attic or other rooms using visual inspection and Thermal Imaging Cameras. Unfortunately three cats perished in the fire.

The structure was ventilated, utilities were controlled and the fire investigation concluded at 6:28 pm. The resident and his dog are displaced, they have been referred to the American Red Cross. The City of Olean Code Enforcement Department deemed the interior of the structure unfit and the building has been posted and secured.

The cause of the fire has been determined, through the resident's statements and the City of Olean Fire Investigation Team's investigation, to be improperly discarded smoking materials too close to combustible materials. City of Olean Firefighters want to remind residents that if you smoke please be sure to discard your smoking materials in a non-combustible container and that the cigarette or cigar is out before leaving the area. Also be sure that there are no combustibles in or around the ashtray. Damage to structure and contents is estimated at \$15,000. According to the Cattaraugus County Real Property website the structure is owned by Paula Grove.

The City of Olean Fire Department was supported on scene by the Westons Mills ambulance. Westons Mills and Allegany Fire Departments and Allegany Rescue and EMS provided standby coverage. The City of Olean Police Department assisted with traffic and scene control as well as the fire investigation. National Fuel and National Grid controlled the gas and electric at the site.

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