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VISION CENTER

(Neb.)-Faulty Electrical Likely Cause Of Crawford House Fire

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 07/09/2012 12:06 PM

(CRAWFORD)-Firefighters were called to the scene of a house fire at 716 Third Street in Crawford around 2:00 a.m. Saturday. Crawford Fire Chief Brian Prosser said Mike Turner with the Fire Marshal's office in Scottsbluff investigated the cause of the fire, which appears to have been started by a faulty electrical system. Sixteen Crawford firefighters and seven Chadron firefighters and one truck were on hand to help with the blaze. Prosser said they were able to get the fire, which started in the house's living room, "knocked down pretty quick," extinguishing flames by around 2:45 a.m. After further assessing the house to ensure everything was completely put out, Prosser says it appears that the structure will be a complete loss, although an insurance adjuster will be assessing the damage as well.

Prosser said the house's owner, Dean Studnicka, says he was awakened by neighbors pounding on the side if his house. He opened his bedroom door to a wall of smoke and was able to escape through a bedroom window with his daughter.

Prosser said Studnicka and his daughter are being assisted by the Red Cross with food and clothing and have a temporary place to stay out of town through his employer, Ponderosa Wildlife Management.

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