



Johnson County Fire Protection District
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NEWS RELEASE – Saturday, November 15, 2025

One Dead in Overnight House Fire

WARRENSBURG, MO – One person is dead following a late-night house fire near Fayetteville in rural Johnson County.

The Johnson County Fire Protection District was notified of a large structure fire at 961 NW 201 Road shortly after 10:30 PM Friday, after neighbors reported seeing flames. As firefighters arrived, they found a massive fire involving a residence, multiple outbuildings, several vehicles, and surrounding natural cover.

Fire crews began extinguishment and search operations once conditions allowed. During the process, firefighters found the resident, Walter McGirl, 89, deceased inside the remains of the burned home. It is unknown whether smoke alarms were present or functioning in the home due to the extent of the fire damage.

“A fire of this size makes every part of the response more difficult,” said Fire District Captain Joe Jennings. “The amount of fire involvement when we arrived left very few conditions that could be controlled. Our crews did everything they could, as fast as they could. This is a tough call for everyone involved, and we’re thinking of the family.”

Personnel from five JCFPD stations responded, along with the Johnson County Volunteer Fire Auxiliary, Johnson County Ambulance District, Johnson County Sheriff’s Office, and the Missouri State Fire Marshal’s Office.

Fire investigators from the Missouri State Fire Marshal’s Office ruled the cause of the fire to be undetermined.

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For more information contact:

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