



CITY OF KENNER

News Release

E. "BEN" ZAHN III
MAYOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 19, 2018

FIREFIGHTERS CONTINUE TO FIGHT REMNANTS OF BLAZE AT OLD KENNER HIGH SCHOOL

Kenner, LA. – Kenner firefighters continue to fight the fire that was reported at the old Kenner High School, 1601 Rev. Richard Wilson Drive, shortly after midnight. The building is an historic landmark that housed classes until 1996. Recently, the city was awarded a grant to begin renovations to put it back to public use.

The State Fire Marshal's office is at the scene to conduct an investigation into the cause of the fire. Once that inspection and investigation is completed, the area around the building will be barricaded for both pedestrians and vehicles as a precautionary measure until the structural integrity of the building can be established.

Two aerial trucks remain on scene dousing the building with water. According to Acting Assistant Chief Stan Genovese, these two trucks alone are still putting 3,000 gallons of water on the building per minute. Earlier usage was about 7,500 gallons per minute, as firefighters worked to save what could be salvaged of the historical landmark.

Residents are advised to stay indoors with windows closed in this neighborhood because of the smoke still coming from the fire. Officials at Armstrong New Orleans International Airport have also been advised, as the light wind is carrying the smoke toward the control tower and runway. However, flights are taking off as scheduled.

Mayor Ben Zahn urges caution this morning. "We want our residents and people traveling to work in the area to drive with caution as our first responders remain working at the site. We ask for drivers to truly consider another route this morning. Once the fire is extinguished, we will be barricading the area as the investigation continues."

Approximately 17 households remain without power this morning in the area, as power was disconnected by Entergy when the fire was initially reported.

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