



CITY OF KENNER

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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FIRE DESTROYS KENNER RESIDENCE, KILLS PETS

A late afternoon fire raced through a single-family residence at 2002 Illinois Avenue in Kenner Monday, destroying the house and killing four family pets. No one was injured as 18 firefighters fought flames and hot weather to bring the blaze under control.

Assistant Fire Chief Brian McKnight said the call came in at 5:48 p.m. and fire units were on the scene four minutes later. The blaze was declared under control at 6:12 p.m.

McKnight said three pumpers, a rescue squad, a district chief and an assistant chief answered the call. Thirteen regular firefighters and five volunteers battled the blaze, which poured heavy smoke onto the residence next door at 2000 Illinois Avenue. He identified the owner as Jimmy Tobias, but was unable to estimate the smoke damage.

He said the house at 2002 Illinois was declared a total loss and estimated the building and its contents value at about \$130,000.



Kenner firefighters check smoke billowing from under roof at 2002 Illinois Avenue.



Pet cat gets oxygen.

He identified the owner as Robert Fuller, adding that Fuller, his wife and adult son were in the house when the fire started. He said Fuller discovered the fire when he turned on a window air conditioner unit in the kitchen and it started blowing smoke into the house. Fuller went outside and discovered an attached storage shed was ablaze.

McKnight said flames quickly spread to the attic and the building was fully involved when firefighters arrived. Cause of the fire was under investigation Monday night.

The family had five pet cats. Four of them were lost to the fire

and EMTs rescued a fifth cat by administering oxygen with a tube into the animal's nose and mouth.

The Red Cross arrived at the scene and put the Fullers up at a local hotel.

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