



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bath Township Fire Department Responds to House Explosion

October 23, 2017 at 1:25 P.M.

Bath Township Fire Department responded to a report of a house explosion at 4230 Slabtown Road, Lima, Ohio, in Bath Township at 9:34 A.M.

Upon arrival, firefighters found the two story, 1,820 square foot home leveled with a small fire on the front side of the structure.

Neighbors advised fire department officials that the home was occupied by an adult male and an adult female subject. Both occupants were located by firefighters and two separate rescue operations were initiated. It took firefighters and paramedics fifty minutes to successfully extricate both patients from the debris. Both subjects had multiple serious injuries and were trapped under the weight of the structure. They were both transported to Lima Memorial Health System where trauma personnel had been notified by the fire department.

The Lima Fire Department, American Township Fire Department, Beaverdam EMS, and Lafayette-Jackson Township Fire Department all assisted at the scene with manpower and equipment.

Fire Chief Joseph Kitchen estimates the damage to be \$200,000 to the structure and \$100,000 to the contents. No fire department personnel were injured.

The cause of the explosion is undetermined at this time and remains under investigation. The department is being assisted by the Allen County Sheriff's Office, the State Fire Marshal's Investigation Bureau and the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification.

Chief Joseph Kitchen stated, *"Our thoughts and prayers go out to the victims and their families. Fortunately, this is a type of emergency we don't often encounter, however, our personnel train every day to be prepared for all types of calls. I was proud of their performance today and thankful for the assistance of our mutual aid partners."*

Bath Twp. Fire Department units remain on scene at the time of this release.

Contact person: Joseph Kitchen, Fire Chief: 419-221-0550