



The Nickel City Dispatch

News From The Nickel City Line Railroad

MAY 2004

EARLY MORNING FIRE DISPLACES 15



Firefighters battle a 3 alarm blaze at the Parkside Terrace Apartments

MAY 28 - NICKEL CITY. An early morning fire displaced 15 residents of the Parkside Terrace Apartments. The Three alarm fire was discovered around 1:15 am by a passing Nickel City Line freight train. Ernie L., the engineer and a retired firefighter, discovered the blaze as he headed his freight train out of town. "I saw the flames and immediately called the dispatcher to report the fire" Nickel City Line Dispatcher Rob M. immediately reported the

fire to the City Fire Department. "I knew those apartments were old" said Rob M. "Time was a factor" he added. Ernie L. and Rob M. both reacted quickly after discovering the fire. "Rob cleared the line ahead so I could get out of the crossing" Ernie said. "Station 14 was just across the tracks and I knew they didn't need me blocking the way" stated Ernie. "We know our City and I knew that firehouse had to get through to those apartments" Rob M. said. "We just did what were trained to do" Rob M. said. "We did our jobs and did them safely" he added.

Battalion Chief Ross Thompson reported that 13 fire stations and 48 firefighters responded to the incident. The fire was extinguished within 14 minutes after the first unit arrived. 3 residents of the Parkside Terrace Apartments were treated for smoke inhalation. They were released from the hospital the same morning. No other injuries were reported. 15 occupants were displaced by the fire and were given temporary shelter by the Red Cross.

Chief Fire Investigator John Trick stated that the fire appears to be non-suspicious in nature but would not comment further until the investigation was concluded. "We should have a final report available by the end of next week" Trick said.

"Those guys from the NCL were great" Chief Thompson commented. "Their quick thinking allowed us to get to the scene and save those people!"

NCL President and CEO Bob R. said "I'm glad to see all our training paid off. I'm proud of my employees....they did a great job"

NCL employee and Sheppardfield mayoral candidate Tim B. added "A good fire prevention program probably could have avoided this situation. That's one of the things I'll be working on as Mayor....a house to house Pub Ed campaign!"

Bob R. responded "I'm glad to see Tim dedicated to the cause. I wish him the best in his endeavor."

Ernie L. was contacted at home afterward and commented "I'm glad everyone came out OK. I just did my job. I'm not putting out fires anymore. I just love to run trains!"