



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

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Media Release

To: All Media Outlets
From: Det. Jennifer McFarland
Public Information Officer
Date: July 30, 2006
RE: Structure Fire in Genesee

At about 03:30 this morning (July 30, 2006), the Latah County Sheriff's Office received a report of a structure fire at Hall's Corner Bar and Brass Lantern Restaurant in downtown Genesee (103 East Walnut Street). According to initial reports, several Genesee residents heard what they described as an explosion. Citizens reported seeing flames on the south (rear) side of the building. By the time fire crews arrived on-scene to try to control the blaze, the structure was nearly completely involved.

The building, which was also the home of owners Randy and Dee Hall, was completely destroyed in the fire. The structural remains are still smoldering at this time, despite efforts of both the Genesee and Moscow Fire Departments. At about noon today, Idaho State Fire Marshal Mark Aamodt (out of the Coeur d'Alene office) arrived on-scene along with investigators from the Latah County Sheriff's Office to determine the cause of the fire. Since there are still several hot spots and flares within the skeletal structure, investigators will not likely be able to enter the remains until tomorrow.

Although the structure was destroyed, parts of the brick building remain erect but the integrity of the remaining walls presents a major hazard to on-lookers and fire and law enforcement personnel. The Sheriff's Office has the scene cordoned off with sheriff and fire tape, and on-lookers are reminded to remain behind the lines and to obey directions given by law enforcement and fire personnel on-scene.

**NOTE: Questions from the media should be directed to either my home or cell phone on Sunday. Please leave a message if you do not get an immediate response. Cellular service is limited in Genesee. Thank you.*