



NEWS *from the City of Lakeville*

December 8, 2009

CONTACT: Fire Chief Scott Nelson, 952-985-4701

Sprinklers Help Avert Disaster at Lakeville Theater

On Tuesday morning, December 8th at 3:40 AM, the Lakeville Fire Department was dispatched to a fire alarm at the Lakeville Theater, 20653 Keokuk Ave. Lakeville Police were first on scene and immediately updated fire units that the entire lobby of the building was filled with smoke. As a result of the report by police and the initial size-up by fire officers first on the scene, fire response was upgraded to include a third; and then a fourth station.

As fire units arrived and began setting up to fight fire, a sprinkler head released inside the lobby area and contained a small fire that had started in the concession area. Firefighters forced entry into the building, extinguished the remainder of the fire and turned off the sprinkler system. Crews spent the next hour and a half removing smoke and water from the building. While there was significant smoke damage, fire damage was minimized due to the fast acting fire suppression sprinkler system in the building. In addition, fire doors activated by the alarm closed off the theater portion of the building so fire and smoke damage was confined to the theater lobby area only.

Fire Department response included equipment and personnel from all four Lakeville fire stations. Lakeville Police and Allina Ambulance were on scene to assist as needed. All emergency units cleared the scene at 5:35 AM. There were no injuries.

The cause of the fire appears to be electrical in nature and started in the concession area. Investigation continues to determine the actual cause of the fire.

Had it not been for the fast-acting fire suppression systems in the building, this fire would have caused significantly more damage than it did. Lakeville Theater will be closed until repairs are made and anticipates re-opening in two days on Thursday, December 10th.