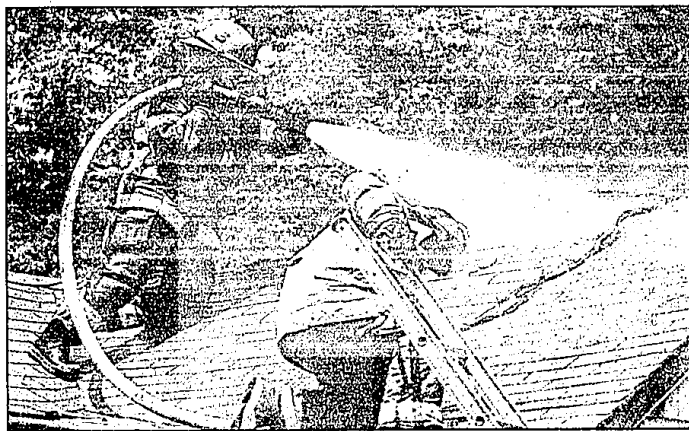


Working: Farmington Hills firefighters extinguish flames in the roof of the home on Springbrook near the corner of Lamar. The couple who owns the home managed to escape but their pet dog was found in a room where he usually sleeps. Firefighters tried to revive the dog, but it's believed he likely died from smoke inhalation. Despite high temperatures Thursday, firefighters brought the fire under control within an hour.



Hills couple escapes burning house

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
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A Farmington Hills couple escaped their burning home, but the family's pet dog did not. Thursday, Hills fire crews arrived to find flames shooting through the windows of a ranch home at 23469 Springbrook, near the corner of Lamar.

The homeowners saw flames coming from a utility room and ran to a neighbor to phone for help. Firefighters, with ladders 90-degree temperatures outside, brought the blaze under control within an hour.

"For a daytime fire, that thing was really going," said Lt. Michael Garr, one of the initial firefighters at the scene.

Garr found the dog inside a back room where it normally slept. He tried to revive the animal with oxygen, but dog didn't respond. The dog likely died of smoke inhalation.

"We don't like to lose anybody," Garr said.

Intense flames and smoke made getting inside difficult. A power line also fell in the backyard.

Investigators say ceiling tile made of cellulose likely fueled the fire's intensity. A cause hasn't been determined, but investigators speculate some type of combustable may have come in contact with the hot water heater.

As a result of OSHA standards, firefighters have to enter a burning structure in pairs with at least two remaining outside. The only exception is in life threatening situations, Garr said.

Call to Action Campaign begins June 23

By TRU SARRI
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January's grand vision in promoting a community-wide "zero tolerance" against drug abuse and violence is June's call to get down to brass tacks.

From 7-9 p.m. on Wednesday, June 23, at the Farmington Training Center, the Call to Action Coalition will hold a follow-up session, to kick off the campaign "Driving Change... Changing Attitudes."

"We're excited," said Estralee Michaelson, executive director of the Call to Action Coalition. "What people are looking for is 'enough of the blah-blah-blah, now what do we do?'"

At the June 23 meeting, students, parents, teachers, business leaders and other citizens will "walk out with some practical, simple action plans, so people know what to do," Michaelson said.

They will also walk out with deals and slogans to augment the main theme: "Those in Charge."

"We Can Change Attitudes," targeted for young people.

"Committed to Changing Attitudes," for businesses.

"Commit to the Journey," for the general public.

Michaelson said people basi-

Those interested in attending the coalition meeting are asked to R.S.V.P. by the end of the day on Friday, June 18.

cally care about kids and stopping the use of drugs and violence. "But they don't know what to do."

That's where the coalition hopes to "connect the dots" and work together with other community groups - spearheading the effort but not duplicating it.

"The more we can drive the same message, we'll be more credible," Michaelson said.

Those interested in attending the coalition meeting are asked to R.S.V.P. by the end of the day on Friday, June 18. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call (248) 489-3408.

The Farmington Training Center is located at 33009 Thomas, one block north of Grand River and about two blocks east of Farmington Road.

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