



One of the first firefighters on the scene sprayed the roof to douse the flames shooting out from the vacant Mosburg IGA building. At right, Randy Topliiff watched as city employee Abel Ontiveroz cut power in the alley behind the burning building using a telescoping "hot stick" to pull the line fuses. Power inside the building reportedly had been shut off, but the main transformer outside was still connected to these lines.

Blaze sweeps grocery but firemen are quick

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were on the scene for more than two hours, but had the blaze under control in 30 minutes.

"We had the smoke changed from black to gray in a short amount of time, which indicates we were getting ahead of it," Jensen said. "It had to have gone undetected for some time because the flames were coming through the roof when we arrived."

A Goodland Emergency Medical Service crew arrived to stand by and provided oxygen and drinking water to the fire fighters as they came out of the building. One minor injury was reported, a fire fighter who cut his hands on glass on the front doors, which had been smashed to

gain entry to that part of the building.

This was the first opportunity for the fire department to use its new truck and all indications are that it performed as advertised.

"It was fantastic," Jensen said. "We had a good water supply and the enlarged five-inch diameter hose supplied more water than what five two-inch hoses could. This was like having a water main above ground. This is a fantastic machine."

Jensen said that the 13 firefighters at the scene, all volunteers, received high marks for their performance from the state marshal.

"The fire marshal told me these guys did a great job of fighting this fire," he said. "They have to take no back seat to a paid department. They did a great job of knocking this fire down."



Goodland Fire Chief Dean Jensen (upper right) pulled a section of the metal siding back as another firefighter used a power saw to cut the studs. Fireman Roger Crotinger was waiting to enter the building with a fire line. Emergency medical technicians (right) were on standby at the scene, providing oxygen and drinking water to the firefighters. A group of future firefighters (above) watched fascinated from across the street.



Photos by Tom Betz and Steve Haynes
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