

FIRE DESTROYS MOBILE HOME: Occupants safe, animals need oxygen

Pellatt firefighters save cats

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At a house fire Saturday afternoon, the Pellatt United Fire Fighters saved two lives.

The mobile home fire broke out around three in the afternoon and the two occupants managed to get free but their two cats suffered serious smoke inhalation.

Rescuers turned to a small oxygen kit for animals, donated to the department about a year ago by the Kenora Veterinary Clinic.

"It's just like putting oxygen on a person," Pellatt Fire Chief

Barry Bennett said. "The mask fits over the animal, or the dog's, nose and it gives them oxygen."

It was the first time the department has had to turn to the device and it came through, reviving the two felines.

Bennett described the unit simply as a smaller version of its counterpart designed for human use.

"You just turn it on and (it feeds oxygen) as the cat breathes in," he said. "You can actually force it in, if you want, manually. You can turn it on so there's pressurized oxygen,

low pressure, going in so every breath the animal's breathing it's getting oxygen."

The home was destroyed but the owners were safe and fire crews even managed to save some belongings in the house. Investigators are still trying to determine what caused the blaze.

"It's amazing that there's still four walls and a roof and a window on this one," Bennett said. "Normally they're just a wrinkled up pop-can by the time your done but the guys did an awesome job getting in there and put it out right quick."

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