

[Somers] The Town of Somers Fire Department was dispatched at 10:22pm January 2, 2024 for a reported structure fire at 44 Quality Avenue, in Somers, CT. The initial dispatch included reports of occupants trapped on the second floor. Connecticut State Police were also on scene.

Personnel who were first on scene within 5 minutes, found the entire front of the house heavily involved in fire. Additional fire and EMS resources were requested. Stafford, Ellington and Enfield provided mutual aid. Three occupants in that apartment were able to escape on their own. One occupant advised personnel that there were four more people unaccounted for. Two rescue crews quickly attempted entry, one through the front door and the other from the rear. A third search was initiated shortly after, with the assistance of an aerial ladder through a second-floor window. Two juvenile victims were quickly located and removed from the house. One was pronounced deceased on scene, and the other was transported to Johnson Memorial Hospital, where they succumbed to their injuries. Two other juvenile victims were found deceased inside the house a short time later. We have confirmed that the victims were all from the same family. Positive identification and official cause of death will come from the state medical examiner's office. Additionally, three dogs were rescued, two are still unaccounted for. There were other pets that succumbed to the fire.

The property is an older duplex house constructed in the 1920s. There were seven residents in the apartment where the fire started, one adult and six children. The older construction contained numerous concealed spaces, which allowed the fire to spread rapidly, requiring considerable effort to extinguish. The other side of the duplex was occupied by four residents who were able to escape on their own without injury.

The fire was placed under control at 12:56am.

One firefighter did suffer a burn injury and has been treated and released from the hospital. The CT State Police Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit and the Eastern District Major Crime Squad will continue their investigation to determine the origin and cause of the fire. An area of origin was determined, but the cause is still under investigation; however, there does not appear to be any criminal aspect at this time.

The Town of Somers Human Services Department is working closely with the families of this tragic event. We ask that if anyone would like to assist financially, please send monetary donations to:

**The Angel Fund  
Town of Somers  
619 Main St.  
Somers, CT 06071**

In closing, over 60 first responders arrived at this incident from 12 different agencies. The Town of Somers and Fire Department in particular, would like to thank all our surrounding mutual aid fire, EMS, and law enforcement partners who responded and supported us throughout this event.

Our hearts and prayers go out to the families and loved ones affected by this tragedy.

