spread, said Dansbach.

"When we saw the condition of the joist, it had to be burning for quite a while. And the house is balloon-frame construction, which means the fire can shoot straight up the walls from basement to attic," said Dansbach.

The fire took around 40 minutes to bring under control, but not before destroying the home. A fast team from Wallington responded. Firefighters from East Rutherford and Lyndhurst also responded to the second alarm fire.

Dansbach advised homeowners with similar construction to have fire stops installed in the basement to stop the spread of electrical fires that all too often start at the lower levels of the home.

Email-A-Friend | Printable Version | Comment on this Article

Comments (1)

On December 13, 2007, Kyle said:

Having been in Rutherford during this event, I was told this was an electrical fire, not caused by "Faulty Wiring" as your article reports, but caused by an electrical panel that is a known latent fire hazard due to breakers that will not trip when overloaded. I have spoken to firefighters from the scene and the fire marshal confirmed that the wire started the fire due to a Federal Pacific Electric electrical panel where the breaker did not trip when the circuit was overloaded. There is a long history of failures with these panels/breakers as well as a long running controversy. As a home inspector I site these panels for replacement due to fire hazards all the time. To report this as simply "due to faulty wiring" is incomplete, to say the least. There are millions of home across the country with these panels installed and just waiting to take another victim.