



City of Mansfield

Tim Theaker, Mayor



140 E. Third Street, Mansfield, Ohio 44902 – (419) 755-9814 Fax – (419) 755-9826
Steven J. Strickling, Chief of Fire

Ohio

Department of Commerce

Division of State Fire Marshal

Brian Bohnert, Public Information Officer
Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal
614-752-7179
Brian.bohnert@com.state.oh.us

NEWS RELEASE

June 26, 2019

At 2:04 a.m. on 6/26/19 the Mansfield Fire Department was dispatched to a structure fire at 208 South Foster Street.

Upon arrival the units found a fully involved vacant dwelling that had extended to a next door occupied residence. Bystanders advised firefighters of a possible entrapment of a juvenile. Search and rescue efforts were attempted but firefighters were driven out of the house due to extensive fire conditions and adverse wind conditions. Once the firefighters were able to contain the fire, further search efforts led to the discovery of a deceased 3 year old child.

The Fire Department was assisted by the State Fire Marshal's office and the Mansfield Police Department with investigations of the fire which has been determined to be an arson fire starting in the vacant house. A reward has been offered for information leading to a conviction in this fire.

The Fire Department was also assisted on the scene by Madison Township Fire Department and the Richland County Sheriff's Office as well as representatives from the Richland County Coroner's office.

A reward of up to \$5,000 is being offered by the [Blue Ribbon Arson Committee](#) for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the fire.

Anyone with information is encouraged to call the State Fire Marshal's tip line at **800-589-2728**.

Steven J. Strickling
Fire Chief