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CALDWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

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Just after ten on Christmas Eve, a Caldwell Police Officer, conducting routine patrol in the area of N. 9th Avenue and E. Freeport, discovered that the backside of a residence in the 600 block of N. 9th was engulfed in fire. The officer notified dispatch as he began working to clear people out of the residence. He was able to wake the residents and get them safely out of the home.

As this was happening, other officers arrived and noticed the fire had spread to the adjacent home. In a valiant effort to save lives, five officers quickly made the decision to force entry into the home and began searching for victims. Officers cleared the lower level of the residence and did not find anyone. Officers attempted to clear the upstairs for residents but were met with extremely hot and dangerous conditions. Caldwell Fire Department personnel arrived on scene and eventually cleared the home for victims; however, no one was home or located. The cause of the fire is under investigation and Officers were treated at scene for smoke inhalation but were uninjured.

“Our men and women working on Christmas Eve risked their lives by running full speed into burning homes. We ask them to wear a lot of hats but I never expect them to go into a fire. That’s a hat that is reserved for the fire department to wear. Tonight, our cops were selfless and sacrificed themselves for their community. This is the core of our existence and our culture. Thankfully no one was home, and our officers were uninjured” said Rex Ingram, Caldwell Chief of Police.

The fire is believed to have started in a chicken coop located between the two homes. One home was significantly damaged, and the other home received minor damage to the carport. There were no injuries.