



# Woodstock Fire/Rescue District

435 E. Judd St., Woodstock, Illinois (815) 338-2621

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*"Service Before Self"*

## For Immediate Release

On Monday, March 1, 2021, at 8:25PM the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District was dispatched to the 4500 block of McCauley Road in unincorporated McHenry County for a reported barn on fire.

The first unit arrived within 7 minutes and confirmed a single-story barn was fully engulfed. Upon arrival, it had also been determined all animals had safely escaped the barn. Firefighters immediately engaged in an aggressive defensive fire attack, while simultaneously establishing rural tender and water supply operations at the roadway since the area is not supplied by fire hydrants. Within 45 minutes, the fire was determined to be under control. Fire crews performed overhaul and continued to monitor hotspots within the barn for an additional hour. The property was released back to the homeowners shortly after 10:00PM. No other structures on the property were damaged.

Preliminary investigations indicate the fire to be electrical in nature. Although the investigation is ongoing, investigators are working to determine if a malfunctioning heating lamp/element was the source. The structure is considered a total loss, including several pieces of farm machinery inside. Initial damage estimates are \$70,000. No fire personnel or civilians were injured during this incident.

We greatly appreciated the assistance from our neighboring fire agencies, McHenry County Sheriff's Office, and our dispatchers. Thank you to those who assisted at the scene and the crews who backfilled our stations while our units were working at the fire.

The Woodstock Fire/Rescue District wants to remind everyone to use extreme caution when using heat lamps to warm your pets, barn animals, or plants. Always place a lamp where it cannot get knocked over and at least 3 feet from any combustible objects, including bedding. Also, refrain from using extension cords or power strips.