

Meeker Fire Too Intense to Try to Rescue Woman

By Dennis Webb, Grand Junction Daily Sentinel
June 3, 2008

Meeker — A house fire that killed a 52-year-old woman Monday morning was burning too intensely for firefighters to try to rescue her, a fire official said.

“It had vented itself and was going nuts,” said Steve Allen, chief of Meeker Fire and Rescue.

Rio Blanco Coroner Randall Cochran identified the victim Tuesday as Deborah K. Seebaum. An autopsy has been conducted and the cause of death has been identified preliminarily as carbon monoxide poisoning due to smoke inhalation. Toxicology test results are pending.

The fire struck a residence at 237 13th St. in Meeker. When off-duty Rio Blanco County sheriff's deputy Clay Caldwell called it in to dispatchers at 6:13 a.m., the two-story residence already was engulfed in flames, and he was unable to enter it.

Allen said when fire crews responded to the scene, they knew there might have been someone in the burning home.

“It was fully involved when we got there,” he said. “We were in a defensive mode at that point. We weren't going to put anybody in the structure.”

The fire was brought under control, and firefighters then discovered Seebaum's body inside.

Allen said a man was injured in the fire and taken to Pioneer Hospital in Meeker. He didn't have information on the man's name or condition, but said he thinks the man is a relative of the victim.

The cause of the fire is not known, and an investigation is continuing.

Source: http://www.gjsentinel.com/search/content/news/stories/2008/06/03/060408_3a_meeker_fire.html