

# TIMES RECORDER

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## Dresden firefighter dies battling barn fire

By PEGGY MATTHEWS  
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DRESSEN - The Dresden Volunteer Fire Department is in mourning today after one of their own died Monday evening fighting a huge barn fire at McGlade School Road.

Gregory Rodgers, 50, collapsed at the scene and was later pronounced dead at Genesis' Bethesda Hospital, according to a nursing supervisor. He

apparently suffered a heart attack at the scene, but an autopsy has been ordered.

The blaze started shortly after 6 p.m. near the intersection of Ohio 60 on a property of Fay and Kenny Albright, according to a neighbor.

Dresden Chief Carl Archer could not be reached for comment, but Debbie Harrison, who lives nearby, said she feared the worst. Not only was she at the scene of the fire, she also had to make an unexpected run to the emergency room with a relative.

"They were calling in the family. I expected it wasn't going to be good," she said. "I think he'd just made it onto the department as a fireman, by the information we received."

Don Alexander, vice-president of the Muskingum County Fireman's Association, said he'd heard the Dresden department get called out, but hadn't heard they had lost a firefighter.

"Heart attacks are one of the leading causes of firemen's deaths...its one of the top things that claims lives," he

said. "I would say it will be a full fire department funeral, unless the family requests something otherwise, and we will be there."

Harrison said she thought the fire started by an exploding light bulb.

"He (Albright) was in the barn feeding the animals and the light bulb busted and sparked, starting the hay on fire," she said.

All the animals in the barn, including horses and goats, were saved, she added. An apartment building

nearby was also spared.

"From my front porch, it was just one big blaze," she said. "The barn was totally destroyed."

Firemen from Muskingum, Licking and Falls also responded to the call, according to the Muskingum County Sheriffs Department.

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