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## HAZMAT CALLED IN TO INVESTIGATE HOME AFTER VEHICLE FIRE IN CHEEKTOWAGA

By Kevin Jolly | November 26, 2017 @5:10 PM

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CHEEKTOWAGA, N.Y. — It began as a call for a truck fire on Bell Street in Cheektowaga.

The Pine Hill Fire Department was the first on the scene.

"We were alerted for a vehicle fire in between two houses. Upon arrival we had a fully involved truck fire that extended into the house," said Daniel Malkowski, Pine Hill Assistant Fire Chief.

He says they quickly extinguished the truck fire but when they went inside the house they made an unusual discovery.

"We found two drums of unknown material inside. We were unable to get a valid explanation what was inside the drums. At that time we took it upon ourselves to remove the crews out of the structure," said Malkowski.

Not knowing what might be in the drums and erring on the side of caution, Malkowski called in the Erie County HazMat team and quickly had the street from Pine Ridge to Olcott Place blocked off.

"I don't know too many people that have drums like that inside their house. So, that's why we found it suspicious. We took the appropriate steps to get Erie County HazMat to take over and investigate it further, so," said Malkowski.

Dressed in their protective suits the HazMat team entered the house. Malkowski said the drums tested negative for hazardous material.

While Malkowski says there was no danger from the drums in the house there are still some unanswered questions being investigated by the Cheektowaga police.



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