

Two Charged in Clay County City Hall Fire

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

On Friday morning, June 5th, the Celina City Hall was destroyed by fire and the rescue squad building next door was also heavily damaged.

As 18 fire engines raced to the scene shortly after 2:00 a.m., flames licked through the windows and roof of the building, consuming records dating back 70 years. Firefighters battled the blaze for hours before bringing it under control, and according to eyewitnesses the building is still standing but the inside was completely gutted.

Emergency officials confirmed that three firemen were injured at the scene, one suffered from smoke inhalation and two were injured from falling debris. They were transported to the hospital, but returned to the location after they were treated and released.

Mayor Buddy Thompson told news teams that everything went down in the building that concerned the city and the only bright spot was that the police department had moved out just prior to the incident.

An investigation began immediately and by late Monday afternoon, June 8th, the Clay County Sheriff's Department confirmed by telephone that two arrests had been made earlier in the day. Justin Spivey and Ronald Camp, both of Clay County, were charged with aggravated arson times three, burglary and theft of property under \$500. Bond was set at \$401,000 each.