



Kelly Lake fire cause probed

The Kelly Lake School was gutted by an early morning fire Wednesday.

The Town of Stuntz Volunteer Fire Department responded to a call about 5:30 a.m., though Fire Chief Rex Lentner said the blaze probably began in the early morning hours.

Lentner said the cause of the blaze is still unknown. The fire is under investigation, he said, though "the cause will be difficult to determine because the building was vacant and abandoned."

The school, a two-story, wood-frame building, had not been used since its closing at the end of the 1968-69 school year.

Lentner said the owner of the structure is believed to be Jack Anderson, Virginia.

The last fire rig left the scene at about 9:30 p.m., Lentner said. One firefighter, Gary Kangas, was injured in the blaze and treated for smoke inhalation at Hibbing General Hospital. No other injuries were reported.



Schools

TOTAL LOSS — A lone firefighter (top photo) moves through the rubble of the old Kelly Lake school still working to extinguish the flames Wednesday afternoon. The building opened in 1910 and closed 59 years later after the 1968-69 school year. A brick entryway (bottom photo) is all that was left standing with the school's chimney in the background. (Staff photos by Dick Knaeble)