

Ravenna Township dog rescued from fire (photos)

By Diane Smith | Staff Writer Published: April 11, 2015 4:01AM

The dog rescued from the basement of a burning home in Ravenna Township on Friday is named Diamond.



Maybe her name ought to be changed to Lucky.

The young, mixed-breed dog was in a cage in the basement of the house at 6845 Henderson Road in Ravenna Township that was heavily damaged by fire Friday evening.

Hiram Fire Chief Bill Byers went into the burning home to rescue the dog. After Byers pulled her out of the building, he handed the animal over to Ryan Leifheit, a Ravenna City firefighter, and Capt. Heather Sweitzer of the Ravenna Township fire department.

"She came right to me," Byers said. "She was happy to see me."

Mark Kozak, chief of the Ravenna Township Fire Department, had few details about the blaze Friday, saying the cause is under investigation. A damage estimate was not immediately available, but the house was believed to be a total loss.

Residents of the house were not home at the time of the blaze. When they arrived and discovered the fire, they immediately asked firefighters if they could rescue Diamond, said neighbor Rhonda Daczko. They were told that the steps had fallen in.

Shortly thereafter, Byers emerged with the dog.

"It's a miracle," Daczko said.

The American Red Cross was being contacted to provide emergency housing to the family.

Contact this reporter at 330-298-1139

or dsmith@recordpub.com

Facebook: Diane Smith, Record-Courier

Twitter: [@DianeSmith_RC](https://twitter.com/DianeSmith_RC)