



MARK ROGERS/Staff Photo

Firefighters battle a blaze Thursday afternoon in Cass Township.

Cass blaze puts family out of home

DUNCOTT — It took firefighters from five companies just 45 minutes to put out a structure fire in this Cass Township village. But the blaze has left one family homeless.

Smoke still billowed from a small gray one-story house with brown shutters at 36 Pine Drive and a one-inch thick white hose snaked along the ice covered road from a hydrant about 800 feet away.

The fire left Royce Reinhart Jr., his wife Mary and three children at least temporarily homeless, said Duncott Hose Company fire chief and Cass Township

assistant fire marshal John Kellman.

POLICE & FIRE

The fire caused heavy damage to the basement and a living room above it where a large hole was left in the floor, said Raymond "Butch" Ostrowski, assistant fire chief of Minersville borough.

"There was so much heat in the place that things melted," said Ostrowski. He said the paint had peeled off the walls from the heat and that crayons in a large Tupperware bowl in the kitchen had melted.

Responding with the Minersville Independent Hose Company and Rescue Hook and Ladder were the South Cass Township Fire Company, Clover Fire Company, Heckscherville, and Duncott Hose Company.

The fire was reported at 1:25 p.m. by a neighbor at 32 Pine Drive, according to John C. Mercuri, director of Schuylkill Coun-