

# McGrath Fire Destroys Cabin

Last Saturday in McGrath, on the Kuskokwim River, fire destroyed the cabin of John Dennis.

Dennis was out on a fall moose hunting trip and at latest report is still out, but his wife and four children were able to get out of the burning structure without injury.

All household furnishings, clothing and personal belongings were lost, though.

Mrs. Ray Collins in McGrath wrote to the Tundra Times this week and said, "Mrs. Dennis and her four children are staying with a neighbor until other arrangements can be made. Villagers quickly gathered clothing and food supplies to aid the family."

"However," she wrote,

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"they still need to replace sleeping bags, blankets and all cooking utensils, which were lost in the fire."

Flames broke out about 10 a.m., apparently after the oldest child was playing with matches and set the wall and curtains to burning, according to Mrs. Collins.

"When a neighbor came in, fire had already spread to the ceiling and along one wall. She quickly ran out calling 'fire' but there was no ready source of water and nothing could be done to save the cabin or its contents."

"All who were able to, carried water from the river to throw on walls of nearby cabins, in an effort to prevent the fire from spreading to them. Occupants of adjacent cabins quickly moved their belongings out and away from danger."

"Fortunately there was no wind. The day before there had been. Had a strong wind been blowing there would have been three more cabins that would have burned."

"During the fire two Air Force jets swooped low over the village, apparently investigating the black column of smoke rising into the sky."

"This is the first in the history of the village that a cabin has been totally destroyed by fire. On one other occasion the community sweat-bath burned but, of course, contained no belongings."