

KSFY Sunday night story 10:30 pm

Hoven High School was destroyed by a massive fire that started just before 1 o'clock this morning.

People who watched and fought the flames said by 3 AM, the roof of the gym was completely engulfed in flames.



Twelve fire departments from surrounding communities came to help battle the flames through the night.

They drained most of the town's water tower, that's when nearby farmers came in to help.

"A mess. A horrible mess. It's amazing," said Amy Hartung.

"Flames everywhere. Smoke. It was awful," said Jenny Uhrich.

When the fire started, the town came out and watched as firefighters tried to put out the flames on Hoven High School.

"We were crawling in there and even on the ground it was so hot it felt like it was melting your gear off of you and we

had to back out, its not worth losing someone over a building," explained Hoven Firefighter, Sam Ruckman.

"It almost reminded me of watching the movie titanic. When you go in and you see these scary pictures and stuff it was horrifying. Terrible," said Hageman.

She lives in Hoven.

"When you see it on TV, you see it in other towns, you say 'that's too bad, I feel sorry for them,' but when you actually see it for yourself, it's just a nightmare," Hageman added.

Amy Hartung's family is a long line of Hoven Greyhounds.

"I used to work at this school. My children went to it. My husband went to it," she said.

Even though the school is lost,

"This is the central part of this whole town, everything revolves around the whole school, everything, the sports, the kids, the activities. It's a big loss for the community," explained Ruckman.

"I hoped my grandchildren would go here, I don't know if they will. Time will tell," Hartung added.

"It's going to hurt the town, but Hoven is tough we'll figure something out," said Jenny Uhrich.

Uhrich said this small town isn't giving up.

"Our fighting spirit is going to come out now. We'll fight," Uhrich continued.

Uhrich said her daughter is going to be a senior next year, which makes this even harder.

Because now she doesn't know where she will graduate.

But all three of the women say even though they don't know when the school will rebuild, they are certain it will happen.

KSFY Sunday night story 6:38 pm

A massive fire at Hoven High School broke out just before 1 AM and crews have been battling flames at the scene ever since.

Firefighters don't know the cause yet, but we're told the state fire officials were at the scene today.

Twelve area fire departments were also in Hoven through the night to help fight the flames.



A Hoven Firefighter says the gym and the north side of the school are completely gone, part of the roof is caved in and the basement is flooded after the fire caused the main water supply to burst.

But it wasn't just the firefighters working, the entire town came together to help.

He estimates they used hundreds of thousands of gallons of water, draining the town's water tower along with several other major water supplies from nearby towns.

That's when the community stepped in.

"A lot of farmers from this area the Hoven farmers, Gettysburg, and Lebanon, a lot of those that have those

types of farms came through," says Hoven Firefighter Rick Schaefer.

The school is from 7th to 12th grade and has about 75 students.

We're told a lot of them came to help and watch as the flames burned.

Hoven High School Senior Abby Simon was out there all night, she says by 3 AM the cafeteria ceiling was engulfed in flames.

"It's heartbreaking. Going into senior year you think it's going to be easy and graduate as a Hoven Greyhound just like you've always dreamed of just like every other class and now we can't," says Abby Simon.

Abby says people have been bringing food and water for the many firefighters still at the scene, to make sure they stay safe.

She says Hoven is a tight knit community and this is bringing them even closer

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KSFY report 2:09 pm

Firefighters are still at the scene of an overnight fire at Hoven High School.

The Hoven Fire Department was called out to the school just before 1:00am Sunday morning. Hoven Firefighter



Rick Schaefer says firefighters from 12 surrounding communities came to help throughout the night, along with many area farmers and ranchers equipped with sprayers.

Schaefer says the fire department drained Hoven's water tower while trying to put out the flames; throughout the night, the crews gained access to nearby water towers and other irrigation sources to continue fighting the blaze.

Fire crews are still at the school working to put out flames that keep popping up in the rubber roofing. The State Fire Marshall is at the scene investigating the cause of the fire. Firefighters will remain on scene for the next 48 hours.

See KSFY.com for rest of the story

<http://www.ksfy.com/story/25609494/fire-destroys-hoven-high-school>