**Family escapes injury in home fire**

Sun-News report

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LAS CRUCES - A Las Cruces family was awakened Tuesday night by a fire in their home.

The Las Cruces Fire Department was called to a report of a house fire on the 2300 block of Mars Avenue at around 8:30 p.m. and found heavy smoke coming from the residence.

Inside was a zero-visibility inferno that forced firefighters out of the house two times before the fire was controlled, about 30 minutes later.

The family escaped without injury, but their three cats died in the fire. The Red Cross has been called to assist the family.

The fire destroyed the garage and caused severe smoke and heat damage to the remainder of the house. The total damage to the residence and cause of the fire has not been determined.