

Firefighter Dies Battling Blaze

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(AP) A firefighter has died and three others were injured battling a blaze that raged for hours, gutting the historic Abby Theatre in Abbotsford. The Marshfield News Herald reports the Clark County Coroner confirmed the death Sunday night. The identities and conditions of the firefighters were not immediately released. It reports that three of them were transported by ground; one by helicopter. Abbotsford Fire Chief Jody Apfelbeck says the building's owner checked its furnaces at 10:30 a.m. Sunday and found no problems. The fire was reported at about noon. Apfelbeck said the building sustained ``substantial damage" including the collapse of its roof. About 35 firefighters from four departments responded. The News Herald says archives indicate the theater opened in 1949.