

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: Tuesday May 10, 2011

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Eau Claire Sheriff's deputies responded to Tower Road in the Town of Wilson on Tuesday afternoon after being notified of a school bus on fire. The call came in to the Sheriff's Office around 4:06 PM, and deputies were advised that all students had been removed from the bus.

Deputies found the school bus, owned by the Augusta School District, completely engulfed upon their arrival. The bus driver, 52-year old Steven Hass of Fairchild, told deputies that he noticed smoke rising from outside of the bus, heard a "popping" sound, and then more smoke followed outside of the bus. He stopped the bus and advised the kids to exit the rear emergency door. All 13 students, ranging in age from 5 to 17 years old, removed themselves from the bus. Hass then double-checked the bus to make sure it was empty. By this time, the exterior of the bus was fully engulfed. The fire then spread to consume the entire bus.

All the students were transported home from the scene by parents or other acquaintances.

Boyd Fire Department and Boyd Ambulance assisted deputies on the scene. The bus is a total loss.