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Fairfield restaurant will reopen after fire, owner says

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FAIRFIELD — Amberly Brown, the owner of Family Traditions Cafe at 1115 Magie Ave., was supposed to be mark the three-month anniversary of her restaurant opening today. Instead, she looked on sadly at what remained after a fire burned the restaurant Tuesday night.

The fire department was dispatched to the restaurant at 10:56 p.m. Upon arrival, they found a heavy fire on the east side of the complex, according to fire Chief Don Bennett.

He said the owners had indicated they left the building for about 90 minutes before learning of the fire. They're still surveying the damage.

"We don't know yet, but it looks like our whole dining room is gone. Our kitchen's intact," Brown said. The Hamilton resident doesn't know how the fire started, but she believes it started in the office area.

"We'd been struggling to open for nearly a year, and we just got opened three months ago today," said Brown, whose restaurant served home-cooked fare, including soup, salad, sandwiches and burgers. She said business was "picking up every day."

Despite the fire, Family Traditions will reopen, its owner said.

"Oh, we're coming back. There's no doubt about that. We struggled so hard to even just get open," she said.

The damage is estimated to exceed \$50,000 and the cause of the fire is under investigation, the chief said. There were no injuries at the scene.

Colerain Twp., Forest Park and Hamilton fire departments also responded to the scene.

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