



**Town of Falmouth
Fire-EMS Department
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NEWS RELEASE - 2011-03

For Immediate Release: March 8, 2011

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Falmouth Fire-EMS Responds to 2 Fires in 16 Minutes

At 6:36 p.m. Falmouth Fire-EMS Department responded to a report of a possible fire inside the garage of a house at 3 Whitney Farm Way. The first arriving fire units encountered heavy fire coming from the garage area and transmitted a working fire which brought in additional units to the scene. The initial crew was able to remove a burning car from the garage and contained the fire to the vehicle. The house was filled with smoke and had to be ventilated. As the crews were battling the fire a 2nd call came in at 6:52 p.m. for a house fire at 481 Gray Road. Falmouth Fire-EMS units freed up at the first scene plus mutual aid units were re-directed to the 2nd fire. The first arriving apparatus were Portland Ladder 4 and Cumberland Heavy Rescue 103 which were both on scene in less than 5 minutes. Both units were initially responding to Falmouth to help at the first fire and had just been cleared from the first fire scene when the 2nd call came in. They arrived to find heavy fire coming from the house and immediately attempted to make a search for any occupants. As the search began the roof started to collapse and all firefighters were ordered out of the building. An attack was made using hose lines on the exterior of the building, with water coming from a supply line laid back to a cistern on Lawrence Way in Falmouth and from tankers shuttling water from a hydrant in Cumberland. In addition to Portland and Cumberland, Falmouth Fire-EMS was assisted on scene by Windham, North Yarmouth, and Gray. Yarmouth Fire Rescue covered the Falmouth Central Fire Station.

The homeowner did arrive on scene about 45 minutes after the fire began. He is staying with family in the area. The house was a total loss and one cat was missing.

The Maine State Fire Marshal's office was called to the scene to assist in finding the cause of the fire. Gray Road was closed for 4 hours while crews battled the fire.

End of release.

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