



Town of Falmouth
Fire-EMS Department
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NEWS RELEASE - 2013-05

For Immediate Release: August 18, 2013

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Sprinkler System Extinguishes Fire in Commercial Building

On Sunday August 18th at 12:51 p.m. the Falmouth Fire-EMS Department responded to a report of a fire alarm sounding in a commercial building at 400 US Route 1 in Falmouth. Crews arrived 6 minutes later to find the alarm sounding and the sprinkler system activated. Crews checked the inside of the building and found that a single sprinkler head was activated in a closet in the basement of the building. The single sprinkler head extinguished a fire that appears to have originated from a hot water heater and burned some materials being stored in the closet. There was no extension from the closet.

Sixteen firefighters from Falmouth Fire-EMS responded to the incident that was under control in approximately 15 minutes. Once the fire was confirmed to be fully extinguished, crews were able to move some materials off the floor and out of water that had flowed from the system. Chief Howard Rice, Jr. estimates that the fire would have likely been much more damaging in the entire 30,000 square-foot office building had it not been contained and extinguished quickly by the sprinkler system. There was some minor water damage on the floor of the hallway and a few adjoining offices.

The building was occupied at the time of the fire by an individual working in an office on the opposite side of the building from the fire. A representative for the building owner was called to the scene by the fire department. There were no injuries on scene.

End of release.

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