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NEWS RELEASE - 2014-07

For Immediate Release: November 9, 2014
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Sprinkler System Extinguishes Fire in Commercial Building

On Sunday November 9th at 12:29 p.m. the Falmouth Fire-EMS Department responded to a report of a fire alarm sounding with a burning odor in a multi-use commercial building at 196 US Route 1 in Falmouth. Crews arrived 4 minutes later to find the building evacuated with occupants of Foreside Fitness Center reporting an odor of something burning and a light haze of smoke in their part of the building. Crews checked the inside of the entire building and found that a single sprinkler head was activated in an electrical room in the Morong Falmouth Service Center, at the front of the building. The single sprinkler head extinguished a fire that appears to have originated in an electrical box and burned some materials being stored in the closet. There was no extension from the closet. Central Maine Power was called to shut off power to the building.

Twenty-six firefighters from Falmouth Fire-EMS responded to the incident that was under control in approximately 30 minutes. Once the fire was confirmed to be fully extinguished, crews were able to move some materials off the floor and away from water that had flowed from the sprinkler system. Chief Howard Rice, Jr. estimates that the fire would have likely been much more damaging in the entire 65,000 square-foot office building had it not been contained and extinguished quickly by the sprinkler system. There was water damage on the floor in the service center.

The building was occupied at the time of the fire in the fitness center that adjoins the service center. The building owner arrived on the scene. There were no injuries on scene.

The Cumberland Fire Department covered the Falmouth Central Fire Station during the incident.

End of release.

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