



**Town of Falmouth
Fire-EMS Department
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NEWS RELEASE - 2019-02

For Immediate Release: February 1, 2019

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Falmouth Fire-EMS Responds to House Fire on Blackstrap Road

On Friday afternoon at 2:35 p.m. the Falmouth Fire-EMS Department was called to a report of a smoke coming from the house at 9 Blackstrap Road in Falmouth. A Falmouth Police Officer arrived within 5 minutes to report heavy smoke coming from the house. A working fire was called which added an Engine and Ladder from Portland and an Engine from Westbrook to the scene in addition to all Falmouth fire units. By the time Chief Howard Rice arrived on scene there were flames shooting approximately 15-feet into the air from a window on the side of the residence. Falmouth Ambulance 2 and Falmouth Engine 4 soon arrived and crews from Engine 4 had to break through a locked door and bring a hose line in while Falmouth Ambulance 2 entered the smoke-filled residence for a search for any occupants. It was not known if anyone was in the residence. In zero visibility crews searched the first and second floors to check for any occupants. Portland Ladder 4 arrived and crews brought in a second hose line to assist the Falmouth crews. Falmouth Engine 2 arrived and hooked up a supply line from a hydrant at the corner of Lambert Street and Blackstrap Road to supply Falmouth Engine 4. Portland Engine 11 was next on scene and their crew performed a secondary search to check for occupants. Both searches were negative and no occupants were found in the building. The fire on the first and second floors was extinguished. The interior crews encountered a large hole in the floor coming from the basement. Crews then overhauled the fire areas while checking for possible causes.

After the fire was brought under control Chief Rice was able to speak to the home owner via phone. He had left the house earlier in the afternoon after working in the basement trying to thaw frozen pipes. He did come back to the scene and was shown the damage by the fire department. The fire appears to have started in the basement near where the pipes were frozen. Fifteen Falmouth firefighters responded to the call along with eleven firefighters from Portland and Westbrook. Crews from Cumberland and Yarmouth covered the Falmouth fire stations during the fire. There were no injuries on scene. Central Maine Power, Falmouth Public Works and Falmouth Fire Police assisted crews on scene and with traffic control. Blackstrap Road was closed for approximately 3 hours while crews operated at the fire. The temperature at the time of the call was 18 degrees F.

End of release.

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