



Town of Falmouth
Fire-EMS Department
8 Bucknam Road
Falmouth, ME 04105
Business 207-781-2610
Fax 207-699-5268

NEWS RELEASE - 2020-10

For Immediate Release: December 29, 2020

For Further Information, contact Chief Howard Rice, Jr. at 207-781-2610

Falmouth Fire-EMS Responds to House Fire on Merrill Road

On Tuesday morning at 9:19 a.m. the Falmouth Fire-EMS Department was called to a report of a fire in an attic and possibly roof at a residence at 19 Merrill Road. Assistant Fire Chief Jay Hallett was the first to arrive on scene 3 minutes later and reported heavy smoke coming from the eaves of the large 2-story home with attached 2-bay garage. Assistant Chief Hallett immediately upgraded the call to a Working Fire, which brought additional units to the scene. Falmouth Engine 2 and Ambulance 2, both staffed at Central Station on Bucknam Road, were on scene in under 5 minutes from the initial call with a total of 6 firefighters. Crews quickly brought a charged hose line into the house to attack a fire that was burning overhead in the attic space above the breezeway between the house and attached garage. The fire was quickly spreading into the attic of the main portion of the house. Interior crews quickly knocked down the fire in above the breezeway and made their way to the 2nd floor of the house. Falmouth Engine 4 arrived, and crews then brought a 2nd charged hose line into the 2nd floor of the main house. At the same time, Falmouth Tower 2 set up in the driveway and used the aerial bucket to bring a crew to the roof to cut open a ventilation hole. Crews inside the house were experiencing high heat, heavy smoke, and no visibility until a ventilation hole could be cut open in the roof. Once cut, smoke billowed out of the opening. A 3rd hose line was brought into the house to help attack the fire. Falmouth Engine 1 and Tank 4 arrived, and units set up a water supply to a hydrant further north on Merrill Road and staged at a 2nd hydrant on Middle Road. Ambulance 3 arrived on scene and their crew went into the garage to check for fire extension. The garage was full of smoke, but no fire was found. Falmouth Police and Public Works closed Merrill Road at both ends and Central Maine Power arrived and disconnected the power to the house.

In addition to bringing all Falmouth fire units to the scene, the Working Fire upgrade brought a ladder company from Portland to the scene. Portland Ladder 4 responded, and their crews assisted the Falmouth crews on the 2nd floor. Crews from both departments rotated in the building and then back out for rehabilitation to keep fresh and safe and managed to control the fire and keep it contained to the attic spaces. The fire burned the attic space above the one floor breezeway and above the 2nd floor of the house before being extinguished. Crews kept the fire from spreading to the 1st floor of the house and to the garage, although there is heavy smoke and water damage to both.

The homeowner was home at the time of the fire and was able to evacuate safely and call 911 to report the fire after seeing smoke. The fire appears to have started in the ceiling area of the breezeway. There were no injuries on scene. Merrill Road was closed for just under 3 hours while crews operated at the fire and all units cleared the scene by noon.

The Winn Road Fire Station was covered with an Engine from Westbrook and Central Station on Bucknam Road was covered with an engine from North Yarmouth. The North Yarmouth engine was eventually brought to the scene to assist and an engine from Freeport was called in to cover Central Station.

End of release.

####