



Town of Falmouth
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NEWS RELEASE - 2020-01

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Falmouth Fire-EMS Responds to Power Issue on Route 1

On Monday morning just after 8:00 a.m. the Falmouth Fire-EMS Department received a call from staff at the Flagship Cinema reporting a burning smell in the movie theater. Units responded and were on scene in less than 2 minutes. First-arriving units checked the cinema and found no fire but noticed an unusual issue with the lights. Some were working and others were not. About that time the Walmart manager next door reported that the heat was not working, and they too had an odor in the building. Chief Rice requested Central Maine Power to respond to the scene to check on a possible issue with the power coming to the entire complex. While one crew checked the cinema, another checked Walmart for fire issues. Crews found one issue with a motor in the back of Walmart only running at partial speed. This motor was turned off. A 3rd crew from Falmouth Fire-EMS arrived in the Tower and used the aerial to set the crew on the roof to check the roof-top units of both businesses. No issues were found on the roof. At that time the crews worked with management from both Flagship and Walmart to completely evacuate both businesses and shut down their incoming power at the main breakers. Due to the time of day there were no customers in the movie theater, but crews still performed a walk-through to verify. There were customers in Walmart and the Walmart staff lead an orderly evacuation of the entire store. Fire-EMS crews confirmed that the store was empty.

Central Maine Power (CMP) arrived on scene and quickly found an issue on Hat Trick Drive just behind Walmart. CMP was able to repair the issue and power was fully restored to the complex. Maintenance crews from the businesses then were able to restore the power to both businesses at the main breakers. Fire-EMS crews stood by while power was restored. There was one issue with a light ballast upon restoring power to Walmart, but the issue was resolved by the maintenance crews standing by. Falmouth Fire-EMS crews then performed a walk-through of both businesses. No issues were found. Units picked up and cleared the scene just before 10:00 a.m.

Due to the time of day Falmouth Fire-EMS was only able to get 2 call firefighters to the scene in addition to the on-duty crews for a total of 9 responders within the first 30 minutes of the incident. Engine 1 did eventually arrive on scene with 1 firefighter and Engine 4 was called to the scene but did not get a driver. The Cumberland Fire Department was brought to Central Station to cover the rest of town while Falmouth crews were tied up at Walmart. The Cumberland Fire Department Engine 101 responded to 1 call on Route 1 for a propane smell in a business while covering for Falmouth.

Chief Rice commented that it was impressive how quick and efficient the management and staff at both businesses were able to clear their buildings. Falmouth Fire-EMS has worked with both businesses over the past year to talk fire safety and preplan potential emergencies as part of an overall emergency management outreach program.

Both Walmart and Flagship Cinemas are now open.

End of release.

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