



**Town of Falmouth**  
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## **NEWS RELEASE - 2021-11**

**For Immediate Release: November 17, 2021**

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

### **Falmouth Fire-EMS Responds to House Fire on Brook Road**

On Wednesday morning at 9:34 a.m. Falmouth Fire-EMS was dispatched to a report of smoke coming from a house at 63 Brook Road. A second call reported that there was possibly a resident in the house. Engine 4 was staffed for the day with a crew of 2 and was on the road at the time of the fire call. They arrived on scene in under 2 minutes and found heavy smoke and flames coming from the first floor of the 2 ½ story residence. Engine 4 immediately called for an upgrade to a Working Fire, which brings all Falmouth units to the scene plus mutual aid fire crews. Engine 4 then stretched a charged hose line to front door of the house. Chief Howard Rice and Deputy Chief Colin Shea were at Town Hall for a meeting and arrived shortly after Engine 4. Chief Rice established Command while Deputy Chief Shea operated the pump on Engine 4. This enabled the crew of Engine 4 to enter the residence and start to attack the fire. A neighbor alerted Chief Rice that it was very likely that the occupant was still inside. Ambulance 2 arrived, and their crew was sent into the smoke-filled house with limited visibility to search for the occupant. Westbrook Engine 3 arrived and hooked up a fire hydrant to Engine 4 to supply Engine 4 with water. The Westbrook Engine 3 crew then went into the house and searched the second floor. Engine 2 arrived, and its crew assisted the Engine 4 crew with the attack line on the first floor. The bulk of the fire was knocked down and the two initial searches did not find the occupant.

As more crews arrived ladders were thrown to the building to the second floor and to the roof. Ventilation cuts were made in the roof to release the smoke and toxic gases while crews worked inside. The fire did get into the attic area which had to be opened up to extinguish the fire in the walls. Mutual aid companies from Portland and Cumberland were rotated in to help the Falmouth and Westbrook crews extinguish the fire and search for the occupant. Multiple searches were made to try to find the occupant, who was believed to still be inside. A total of five different crews went through the building to search all floors for the occupant and all searches turned up negative. Crews then went to a neighbor's house to see if they knew where the occupant was, but nobody was home.

The Maine State Fire Marshall's Office was called to the scene to assist with the investigation of the fire and the locating of the occupant. Falmouth Police was also called to help locate the missing occupant as well. Contact was finally made with the occupant just after 4 p.m. confirming that she was away from the residence.

The fire heavily damaged the first floor of the house with extension to the attic areas. Other parts of the house sustained smoke and heat damage.

Falmouth Police closed Brook Road for the duration of the incident. Yarmouth Engine 81 responded to the scene to provide a Rapid Intervention Team and an engine company from Portland covered the Winn Road Fire Station while an engine company from Freeport covered Central Station on Bucknam Road. The coverage crews responded to 2 EMS call while covering the Falmouth stations.

There were no injuries on scene and all units cleared the scene by 3 pm.

End of release.

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