



**Town of Falmouth**  
**Fire-EMS Department**  
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**NEWS RELEASE - 2023-07**

**For Immediate Release: September 24, 2023**

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

**Falmouth Fire-EMS Responds to House Fire on Heritage Lane**

On Sunday at 12:12 p.m. Falmouth Fire-EMS was dispatched to a report of smoke coming from the roof of a house at 12 Heritage Lane. Given the proximity to Westbrook, Westbrook Engine 3 was dispatched via automatic mutual aid. Falmouth Engine 4 arrived on scene at 12:18 p.m. to find smoke showing from the eaves of a 2-story house with attached garage. Engine 4 upgraded the call to a Working Fire and stretched a charged hose line into the building. Westbrook Engine 3 was the next truck to arrive on scene and they immediately performed a primary search of the building.

Engine 2 arrived next and connected a supply line from a fire hydrant on running Brook Lane in Westbrook to the scene. Chief Rice and Deputy Chief Martelle arrived and set up the command post. Deputy Chief Martelle set up a resource group to manage firefighters with tasks on scene and Chief Rice took over as the Incident Commander. Falmouth Tower 2, Tank 4, Engine 1, and Ambulance 3 arrived on scene. Crews reported to the resource group for assignments.

The crew from Engine 4 took down a ceiling fan and then gained access to part of the attic through a small scuttle. No fire was seen but there was smoke and high heat in the attic. The team from Westbrook Engine 3 completed their search and confirmed that nobody was in the residence. They then made access to the roof via ground ladders and opened the attic gable vent. A crew from Ambulance 2 went to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor with hooks to open up the ceiling to gain access to the other side of the attic from the original group from Engine 4. Fire was found in the ceiling and attic area above a closet and bedroom and was extinguished. A crew from Engine 2 went to the basement to turn off the power. Crews then overhauled the fire area and put down numerous plastic tarps on both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors to help protect belongings. Contact was made via phone through a neighbor with the homeowner who was away at the time of the call and confirmed nobody was home at the time of the incident. Both occupants of the home arrived back to the scene once the fire was out. Once overhaul was complete, Assistant Chief Hallett walked the residents through the building to explain what happened and the steps taken by the firefighters.

All Falmouth Fire-EMS units responded to the incident along with an Engine and Ambulance from Westbrook, a Ladder from Portland and an Engine from Yarmouth. An Engine from North Yarmouth covered the West Falmouth station, and an Engine from Portland and Ambulance from Windham covered the Falmouth Central Station. Falmouth Police and their traffic flaggers assisted with traffic control on scene. Central Maine Power also responded to the scene.

There were no injuries on scene. All units cleared the scene at 2:09 p.m.

End of release.

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