



Derry Fire Department
14 Manning Street
Derry, NH 03038
603-432-6751

For immediate release:

Two Alarm Residential Fire, Derry, New Hampshire

At 15:08 hours Derry Engines 1, 4, 3, 2; and Car 1 were dispatched to 15 Gordon Road for a reported building fire. Windham Fire Engine 3 was also dispatched as the fire occurred in an automatic aide response area. Derry Medic 1 was not available as they were on a prior medical call.

Upon arrival, initial crews observed heavy fire throughout the first floor with fire extending into the second floor. Neighbors called 911 after hearing and seeing fire blow out a window on the first floor, one neighbor attempted to knock down the fire with his garden hose, and another neighbor stated that the occupants were not home and had left a few hours earlier.

Derry Fire Engine 1 initiated a rapid, aggressive, transitional fire attack, quickly cooling the fire from the outside with a hose line and then quickly moving into the first floor. Windham Engine 3 arrived on scene and took a hose line to the second floor to attack the fire and perform a primary search. Derry Engine 1 crew found several holes in the floor with the floor being very hot. Derry Engine 4 took a line to the basement and extinguished the basement fire. These crews performed a primary search of the entire structure and confirmed that the building was unoccupied, all while extinguishing the fire. Initial crews were hampered by zero visibility and very high heat conditions throughout the building.

Subsequent Derry and mutual aid companies were assigned to the Rapid Intervention Team, to ventilate the structure, provide water supply from a hydrant that was 1000 feet away, salvage, and overhaul. Londonderry Fire Medic 1 provided emergency medical standby for the incident. Command requested a second alarm at 15:28 to provide relief crews. The fire was under control at 16:04.

Mutual aid on scene was provided by the Windham, Auburn, Chester, Londonderry, Hampstead, Manchester, Raymond, and Salem Fire Departments. Station coverage was provided by the Nashua, Hudson, Hooksett, and Kingston Fire Departments. During this incident the Nashua Engine responded to a reported structure fire in Londonderry, and station coverage companies also responded to a stove fire in Derry.

The building suffered fire, heat, and smoke damage on all three floors. All contents were destroyed in the fire and the structure is uninhabitable. There were no firefighter or civilian injuries. A mother, father and one year old child lived in the home. The Manchester Chapter of the American Red Cross responded to provide family services. The residents also had family who lived in the same neighborhood.

The Derry Fire Prevention Bureau is investigating the fire. Preliminary investigation shows that the fire originated in the basement, and that the cause is non-suspicious.

Incident #2017-1782 was dispatched at 15:08; first units arrived on scene at 15:19; the fire was under control at 16:04, and all Derry Fire units were secure and available at 18:45. This fire occurred in West Derry near the Windham town line, 4.5 miles from Derry Central Station.

Photo caption: *Photo courtesy of Jarrod Fothergill.* Derry Fire and mutual aid crews during the salvage and overhaul phase of the fire.

Media Contact:

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