

# DERRY FIRE DEPARTMENT



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*Excellence through Professionalism, Integrity, and Compassion*

## For immediate release:

### **Second Alarm Building Fire 23 Central Street Derry, New Hampshire**

On March 15, 2021 at 12:03 p.m. the Derry Fire Emergency Communications Division received a call from a Derry Public Works employee who reported a house fire at 23 Central Street. He reported that he was going to attempt to ensure evacuation.

23 Central Street is a single family, 2 story wood frame residence built in 1901. The house is located in a densely populated section of Derry. The residence was occupied by three adults and two children.

When the call was initially received, all Derry Fire companies were operating at a smoke condition at a commercial property on Crystal Avenue. Based on the credible information, the Derry Fire Communications Center dispatched a 'Working Fire Assignment'.

The initial response to 23 Central Street consisted of Londonderry Ladder, Londonderry Medic, Derry Battalion Chief, the Derry Fire Chief and Assistant Chief. Shortly after, other Derry units were released from Crystal Avenue and responded to Central Street. Derry Engine 2 was first on scene, 2 minutes and 41 seconds after being dispatched, followed by the Derry Battalion Chief and Assistant Chief.

On arrival, there was heavy smoke and fire showing from the second floor. An aggressive interior attack was initiated in attempt to suppress the fire and search for potential life hazards. As Londonderry's Ladder Crew entered the building to provide relief to a Derry Engine Company on the second-floor, conditions rapidly deteriorated.

Command ordered a tactical withdrawal, to bring crews out of the structure in an orderly fashion. As crews were withdrawing, conditions suddenly and dramatically worsened even further. Crews were ordered to immediately evacuate. After crew's evacuation, a flashover occurred. All crews were safely accounted for and a defensive posture was assumed. The fire was brought under control prior to crews reentering the building.

Bitter cold weather, high winds, and a frozen fire hydrant presented challenges to fire suppression efforts.

Londonderry, Windham, Hudson, Hampstead, and the Manchester Fire Department aided at the scene. Stations were covered by the Nashua, Salem, Hudson, and Pelham Fire Departments. A staffing recall of off duty Derry Fire personnel was requested to assist in the Communications Center and station coverage. Derry Police assisted with traffic. Derry CERT provided on-scene rehabilitation.

The fire is being investigated by the Derry Fire Prevention Bureau and is not considered suspicious. The American Red Cross was contacted to assist the occupants.

The Incident number is 2021-884 and units remain on scene at the time of this Press Release.

One civilian was injured while rescuing the occupant's dog. That civilian was treated and released from Parkland Medical Center. One firefighter sustained minor injuries at the scene of the fire. That firefighter is resting at home.

During this incident the Derry Fire Communications Center dispatched multiple other incidents in Derry, including a tree into a house and fast-moving brush fire located near a residential structure.

Fire Officer Submitting Release: Battalion Chief Shawn M. Haggart

Date: 03/15/2021

