



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

For immediate release:

Working fire in commercial greenhouse, Derry, New Hampshire

At 03:42 hours Derry Engines 1, 3 and 2; Ladder 4; and Car 1 were dispatched to a reported structure fire at 161 Rockingham Road, Rockingham Acres Garden Center. Derry Medic 1 was not available as they were on a prior medical call.

Upon arrival initial crews observed heavy fire from a large wood pile located inside a large commercial greenhouse. Fire had extended through the roof and across the rear wall of the greenhouse. A passerby had observed a fire in the rear of the greenhouse called 911 and notified the owner who lived on the property.

Initial crews were able to quickly knockdown the fire in 15 minutes. Full extinguishment required extensive overhaul and removal of about 2 cords of wood and char from the structure.

No mutual aid was required on scene. However, Hudson, Chester, Hampstead and Salem Fire Departments provided station coverage.

About 30% of the greenhouse structure suffered damage and about 50% of the plants were likely destroyed by a combination of the fire and then subsequent freezing.

The Derry Fire Prevention Bureau is investigating, and the fire is non-suspicious. The greenhouse is heated using a large commercial wood stove and multiple fans. Preliminary investigation shows that the cause of the fire was an ember from the woodstove that ignited the wood pile. There were no civilian or firefighter injuries.

Incident #2018-1209 was dispatched at 03:42; first units arrived on scene at 03:47; the fire was knocked down by 04:05; overhaul completed at 05:35, and all Derry Fire units were secure and available at 05:45.

Media Contact:

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