



MERRIMACK FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Interim Fire Chief
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PRESS RELEASE

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Merrimack Fire Rescue responds to an explosion and fire at 482 Daniel Webster Highway

On Monday November 23, 2020 at 9:32 AM the Merrimack Fire Department was dispatched to the area of 482 Daniel Webster Highway for a reported explosion and structure fire. Merrimack Engines 1 and 2, Ladder 1 and ambulance 1 along with Chief Duke, Assistant Chief Harris and Fire Marshal Manuele responded immediately. While units were responding a large plume of black smoke was seen and a working fire assignment was requested from Dispatch which called out Rescue 1 and mutual aid units from Manchester and Nashua.

Upon arrival at 9:35 AM, personnel found a large fire involving a fabric shelter and contents and the rear wall of the 100+ year old 2 story house burning from bottom to top. Captain Brechtel from Engine 1 sent part of his crew to start fighting the exterior fire and led the crew from Ladder 1 to the inside of the house to start fighting the fire that had made its way into the attic. There was some concern as to whether a dog was inside and a search was started, however it was determined that a neighbor had safely removed the dog from the home before the arrival of fire units. Crews worked aggressively to extinguish the exterior fire and keep the fire that had burned into the rear of the home from spreading further. The bulk of the fire was extinguished by 9:45 AM and crews continued to extinguish smaller fires in the attic and eaves.

The fire was declared under control at 10:23 AM and all units performed extensive overhaul and salvage operations until leaving the scene. Mutual aid was received at the scene from a Nashua Engine and Ladder company, and a Manchester Engine covered Merrimack while all Merrimack Units were committed. A crew from AMR Ambulance treated a civilian who may have had some smoke exposure at the scene. No firefighters or occupants of the home were injured.

Damage included the destruction of the fabric shed and its contents as well as the rear wall and attic of the home suffering significant damage. The house was determined to be able to be inhabited by the owner. The cause of the fire was due to an accidental electrical failure.

The last unit cleared the fire scene at 11:32 AM.