



MERRIMACK FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Fire Chief
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PRESS RELEASE

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Merrimack Fire Rescue responds to fully involved house fire on Baboosic Lake.

On Thursday June 17, 2021 at 6:53 PM the Merrimack Fire Department was dispatched to 2 Shore Drive Extension for a reported structure fire. Engines 1 and 2, Rescue 1 and Ambulance 1 responded immediately. While units were on route Merrimack Emergency Dispatch informed responding units that smoke and fire was visible coming from the house and that there were possibly people trapped in the home. . A working fire assignment was requested from Dispatch which called in off duty personnel and Merrimack Fire Chief Duke, Assistant Chiefs Harris and Brechtel and Fire Marshal Manuele as well as and mutual aid units from Manchester and Nashua. Further calls were received indicating people were jumping out of windows from the house.

Upon arrival at 7:02 PM, fire personnel found fully involved 2 story cape style home. Captain Gagne on Engine 1 immediately called in a 2nd alarm which started more mutual aid apparatus to the scene and to cover Merrimack's now empty Fire Stations. Residents reported a woman may be trapped on the 2nd floor and a rapid entry and search for any occupants was initiated but the house was filled with flames and crews had to quickly evacuate. It was later learned that the missing person had jumped from the 2nd story balcony before the fire units arrived and was rescued by a boater and brought to shore where an Amherst Ambulance was able to treat her and transfer to a local hospital. At that time all occupants were accounted for and units switched to an exterior attack only due to the many challenges fighting the fire posed. The area of the fire consists of narrow dirt roads with many closely spaced cottages and houses along the shore of Baboosic Lake. There were problems with obtaining an adequate water supply and crews were rapidly tiring from the hot conditions. Mutual aid was received from Manchester, Amherst, Nashua, Hudson, Bedford Milford and AMR Ambulance. Merrimack Police also assisted at the scene. After the bulk of the fire was knocked down it was determined that the structure was collapsing and unstable and would need to be torn down to fully extinguish the remaining fire. A Merrimack DPW backhoe was called to the scene to demolish the house and allow the fire crews to reach areas that still needed to be extinguished. As of 11:00 PM crews are still working at the scene. Two Merrimack Firefighters were injured and transported to Catholic Medical Center where they are currently being treated. A pet dog is also reported to be missing.

The cause of the fire is under investigation by the Merrimack Fire Marshal's office.