

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE _____

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UPDATE

SUFFOLK, VA (June 26, 2016) The commercial structure fire in the 160 block of County Street was called under control at 3:38 p.m., however, crews from Suffolk Fire & Rescue didn't clear the scene until 7:53 p.m. due to the extensive overhaul of the facility that was required in order to remove bags of burned peanut skins.

A second firefighter at the scene sustained non-life threatening injuries and was also ground transported to Sentara Obici Hospital for treatment.

The damage to the building was contained to the roof of the facility.

All of the affected roadways that had been closed in the area reopened at approximately 8:00 p.m. as crews from Suffolk Public Works responded to remove detour signs.

In addition to assistance from volunteer departments in backfilling local stations due to the two alarm blaze, the cities of Chesapeake and Smithfield also provided assistance.

The Fire Marshal's Office will continue the investigation.

TWO ALARM BLAZE IN DOWNTOWN SUFFOLK

SUFFOLK, VA (June 26, 2016) Suffolk Fire & Rescue responded to the scene of a two alarm commercial structure fire in downtown Suffolk earlier this morning.

Emergency Communications received the call at 11:43 a.m. and the first units arrived on scene at 11:45 a.m. at the Nuts for Wildlife facility in the 160 block of County Street. Battalion Chief William Kessinger advised that upon arrival firefighters found a large column of smoke visible from the exterior of the warehouse. It was determined that the fire involved peanut hull byproducts at the facility. The active fire extended to portions of the roof of the structure.

One firefighter sustained non-life threatening injuries and was ground transported to Sentara Obici Hospital for treatment.

Due to the size of the facility and closeness of other structures the response was upgraded to two alarms and Engines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10, Ladders 3 and 5, Medics 32 and 3A, Rescue 1 and 6, EMS 1, Battalions 1 and 2, Rehab 6 and the Fire Marshal's Office responded. Numerous volunteer departments are currently backfilling the responding stations.

Suffolk Police are providing traffic control and security and County Street at E. Washington Street are currently closed, as well as County Street at Polk Street.

The fire is still considered active at the time of this release.

The Fire Marshal will be conducting the investigation.

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