

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact:**

Diana L. Klink

Office: 757.514.4104

Mobile: 757.359.1845

### **FIREFIIGHTERS RESPOND TO EARLY MORNING COMMERCIAL STRUCTURE FIRE**

SUFFOLK, Virginia (August 20, 2018) Suffolk Fire & Rescue units remain on scene of a commercial structure fire at Birdsong Peanuts in the 300 block of Factory Street in downtown Suffolk. Emergency Communications received a call from an employee on site at 5:04 a.m., and the first units arrived on scene at 5:10 a.m.

Captain Steve Johnson advised that upon arrival at the peanut processing plant no smoke was initially visible from the exterior, but upon physical inspection heavy smoke and fire was located on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor where peanuts were initially smoldering. Due to the height of the location, the Ladder trucks and hoses were utilized to knock down the fire. A sprinkler head that had activated also assisted in extinguishing the flames.

Seven employees that were on scene at the time were evacuated from the premises. There were no injuries.

Responding units included Ladders 3 and 6, Engines 1, 2, 3 and 4, Battalion 1, Rescue 1, Medic 3A, EMS 1 and Safety 1.

Suffolk Police provided traffic control due to the staging of emergency equipment and assistance at the scene.

The Fire Marshal's Office will be handling the investigation.

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