

Welch Street Fire – February 10, 2009

Outlined below is a report we received from the Portland Fire Department on Tuesday's Welch Street fire. Before the hoses were put away, an account had been opened at the bank at the Peaks Island Inn to assist Leslie and her daughter, Samantha. By early afternoon, emails were circulating requesting clothes and toys. Within 24 hours, emails circulated that those needs had been met. By sundown, Leslie and her daughter had a home to stay in. The owner who is currently in South Carolina had the cable system reinstalled so Leslie's daughter could have television. Benefit dinners are scheduled- check the bulletin boards for info.

We all need to take a minute and be in awe at what we accomplished as a community in this situation which could have been so much worse.

PIC Communications Committee

Lynne Richard

Rob Tiffany

Report by Captain David Pendleton

Sorry for the delay but my day has been non-stop today with projects. Regarding the fire on Welch Street yesterday, I feel that things went very well. The fire run report is still being completed but it looks like the call was received at just before 0959am. Units were dispatched on the call and the first page (which is automatically repeated a second time) was transmitted at about 1000 . Engine 12 with Peaks Patrol Officer Les Smith arrived at the scene at about 1004 and he reported that the rear of the building was well involved in fire. Dispatched transmitted a second page with the updated information at 1006. Tim Flynn who was on the Island arrived right behind Engine 12 and he and Les charged a hoseline and first extinguished the fire that had extended to the cottage next door before putting water on the burning house. Meanwhile the crew of Engine 5 from Central with Pat Flynn in charge arrived at the Fireboat and the three of them got underway to Peaks in Marine 3, the aluminum skiff with an outboard. They arrived at the scene at about 1021 and immediately entered the structure to fight the fire. Just behind Marine 3, the three Fireboat crew members and three from Engine 1 along with Deputy Chief Thomes arrived at Peaks in Marine 2, the Cavallaro. These firefighters were able to relieve the crew of Engine 5 just as they had to exit the building due to low air in their air pacs.

Marine 3 returned to the mainland to pick up the two firefighter/paramedics and me and quickly returned to the Island. By this time the Public Services crew had become involved in the incident bringing Ladder 12 to the scene, hooking Engine 12 to the hydrant and assisting Officer Smith with operating the pump panel of Engine 12. Deputy Thomes requested additional help so the Coast Guard was asked to transport the six firefighters of Ladder 1 and Engine 4 to Peaks. Once they arrived they assisted with final extinguishment and overhaul. Long Island was also notified and got underway with five firefighters but were returned before they arrived. Bob Hannigan was very helpful in providing transportation to and from the dock to the fire scene. He also provided drinks and pizza to the responders. As you can see there was a tremendous amount of teamwork and cooperation that occurred at this fire and working together prevented a terrible situation from getting worse.

Captain David Pendleton
Portland Fire Department
Marine Division

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