

July 10, 2007  
MEDIA RELEASE  
For Immediate release

Contact information  
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At 09:48 hrs. on the above date a fire alarm activation was received from the New England Bible Church located at 60 Chandler Road in Andover, MA..

Andover Fire Rescue units were dispatched to the alarm at 09:49. An employee working at the church also called 911 and stated that a van parked at the rear of the church was on fire and that the fire had also extended into the church.

At 9:51 hrs. the first arriving Engine Company from the West Andover station reported a vehicle fire to the rear of the building with extension into the church building.

Upon arrival Deputy Chief Al DelDotto reported a working fire and at 10:07 he requested a second alarm. The second alarm request placed all on duty Andover Fire Rescue personnel at the scene of the fire.

A request was placed for all off duty Andover Fire Rescue personnel to assist and assistance from Lawrence, North Andover, and Tewksbury was requested to cover the Andover fire stations and to assist at the scene.

The fire caused extensive damage to the rear portion of the church and moderate water and smoke damage to the entire building.

The fire activated the sprinkler system and Andover Fire apparatus augmented the water supply to the system.

If not for the aggressive attack on this fire by the Andover Fire Rescue personnel coupled with the automatic sprinkler system, substantial fire damage to the entire building would have occurred.

Three firefighters were slightly injured while working at the fire and remain on-duty..

The fire is under investigation by Andover Fire Rescue personnel, Andover Police Department personnel and the State Fire Marshals office.