



TOWN OF CANTON VOLUNTEER Fire & EMS Department

Valuing Life...at a Moment's Notice



MEDIA ADVISORY

Canton Volunteer Firefighters Respond to Early Morning Fire in a Commercial Van

WHAT: About 24 volunteer firefighters responded to an early morning fire on Gemstone Drive. Upon arrival, fire units found a fully involved commercial van in a back residential drive way. The van was approximately 20 feet from the residence, 15 feet from a large, filled garage and about 10 feet away from a dozen canoes on racks.

WHO: Fire Captain Wayne Goeben took Command and Deputy Chief Craig Robbins managed scene operations.

Canton volunteer firefighters Johnathan Gotaski, Stephen Goeben and Myles Angel comprised the 1st fire attack team. Matt Bilts, Juan Gonzalez & Ryan Kerr were the 2nd attack team.

HOW: Firefighters used a hydrant on Torrington Avenue and laid 1,800 feet of fire hose into the site. Tanker 7 was available as an alternate water supply.

Small explosions continued to flare up in the van, so firefighters quickly switched from a water based attack to a foam based attack to mitigate the hot spots that continued to flare up.

The fire was contained after about 15 minutes.

Canton's Ambulance was on stand by to provide rehabilitation to firefighters. No injuries were reported.

Town of Canton Volunteer Fire & EMS Department responded with: Engines 1, 3, 4 & 6, Rescue 9, Tanker 7, Utility 8 & Canton's ambulance. Engine 3 was used for water supply and Engine 4 for the fire attack.

The Connecticut Water Company and DEP were notified of the incident because of fluids released during the fire and the use of foam during the incident.

HOW: The fire remains under investigation by the Fire Marshall's Office.

Incident Commander Wayne Goeben observed, "the good news was that there is no news. It was a routine operation. Our volunteer firefighters, fire police and ambulance members did their work and everything went smoothly. In terms of resources, it was fortunate that we're at the beginning of a holiday weekend, so many of our volunteer members are still in town."

WHEN: Friday, July 1, 2011. The call was dispatched at 5:37 a.m. Command was terminated at 7:38 a.m.

WHERE: 9 Gemstone Drive, Canton, CT. Torrington Avenue and Erickson Avenue were shut down for about 30 minutes.

CALL: Sylvia Cancela, Public Relations Officer, Town of Canton
Volunteer Fire & EMS Department, 860-559-4774.

####