



# ***TOWN OF CANTON VOLUNTEER Fire & EMS Department***

*Valuing Life...at a Moment's Notice*



---

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### ***Canton Volunteer Firefighters Respond to 'Early Spring' Chimney Fire***

**WHO:** Over 30 volunteer firefighters from the Town of Canton Volunteer Fire & EMS Department responded to a mid-day chimney fire with possible extension into the residence.

**WHAT:** While cleaning his wood stove, a Case Street homeowner discovered a fire in the stove pipe. Upon further inspection, he also noticed a smoky haze in the attic, 'like you would find in a room full of cigar smokers.' The owner was asked to evacuate and because the chimney fire was reported with possible extension into the attic, dispatch for a potential structure fire was started. In addition, due to the lack of hydrants north of Route 44, the protocol called for dispatch of mutual aid for additional water supply.

**HOW:** Canton Fire Captain Steve LaPointe assumed command, with Chief Richard Hutchings managing water supply and veteran firefighter Wayne Goeben running scene operations. Responding apparatus included: Engine 6 and Ladder 2 (for fire attack); Engines 1 and 4 with Tanker 7 (for water supply); and Engine 3 (for additional water supply drafted out of Carpenter's Pond). Car 10 the ambulance was on stand by. Mutual aid was received from Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company's Tanker 9.

Upon arrival, volunteer firefighters Joe Ouimette and J.T. Lederman headed for the roof and determined there was a significant creosote blockage inside the chimney. Using chains they broke up the blockage and knocked out any remaining fire in the chimney.

Smoke from the chimney fire had, however, passed through damaged mortar joints on the roof line and into the home's attic. Using a thermal imaging camera, the interior crew found elevated heat levels *in between* the home's original 1920's balloon frame construction and a 1986 renovation. They removed a small amount of insulation from the area and determined that the fire had not extended into the overall structure.

Inside the living room, volunteer firefighters extinguished the fire in the stove, removed the logs and embers, then disconnected the wood stove from the chimney. They found only minor carbon monoxide readings around the wood stove, but the odor of smoke lingered from the 1st floor up to the attic.

**WHY:** Highly combustible creosote builds up in chimneys after *just one burning season*. Many people continue to run wood stoves and fireplaces even as temperatures move past 50 degrees, 'just to take the chill off.' The National Fire Protection Association recommends that chimneys, fireplaces and vents be inspected once per year.

**WHERE:** 9 Case Street, Canton, CT.

**WHEN:** Sunday, March 6, 2010 at approximately 2:00 p.m. Volunteer firefighters cleared the scene at about 4:00 p.m.

**CONTACT:** Sylvia Cancela, Public Relations Officer, Town of Canton Volunteer Fire & EMS Department; 860-559- 4774; [firefightersylvia@comcast.net](mailto:firefightersylvia@comcast.net).

**PHOTO:** On the roof: Volunteer firefighters Joe Ouimette and J.T. Lederman use chains to break up a large blockage of creosote and knock out any remaining fire in the chimney. (Photo taken by Brandon Shilosky)

####



