

COMMERCIAL STRIP MALL FIRE IN THE TOWN OF ORANGE

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Contact: Thomas W. Jacobs, wjacobs@orangevfc.com



On Tuesday, July 11th, at 16:12 hours the Orange County E911 center received a call for a fire located at 555 N Madison Road, the Great Wall Chinese Restaurant. The first suppression unit to arrive was Engine 23 (Orange Volunteer Fire Company). Crews arrived to find a large column of smoke from the roof and smoke within the restaurant. Engine 23 and Medic 23, worked to advance hose lines into the restaurant, confirm the building was clear and evacuate adjacent exposure businesses located in the strip mall. Inside they found a fire that had begun inside the hood system of the restaurant and quickly extended beyond and into the structure of the building itself. Using ground ladders and the aerial ladder off Truck 23, additional lines were deployed to the roof to attack the advancing fire. Crews worked to access the fire and extinguish the burning roof materials. As personnel worked to extinguish the fire, additional personnel worked within exposure businesses to secure utilities, check for extension, and minimize smoke damage. Multiple businesses suffered damage from smoke, water or a combination of the two.

Duty Officer 1, the Orange County Fire & EMS Duty Officer 1 established command of the incident. Multiple agencies to include the Gordonsville Volunteer Fire Company, Barboursville Volunteer Fire Company, Orange County Fire & EMS and Rapidan Volunteer Fire Company assisted with providing apparatus and manpower to the scene. A total of 5 businesses in the Orange Village Shopping center suffered damage from this fire. They will remain closed until authorities from the building department or health department allow re-occupancy.

The cause of the fire will remain under investigation by authorities.

The Orange Volunteer Fire Company has served the Town of Orange and greater Orange County community for over 100 years. We would like to remind residents to check their smoke detectors annually and replace them after 10 years of use. Smoke detectors remain the primary life saving tool in any residence or business so please ensure you are maintaining them each year.