

## FIRE DAMAGES BUILDINGS AT JAMES MADISON'S MONTPELIER

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Orange County, VA – On April 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 PM, Engine 23 and Truck 23 of the Orange Volunteer Fire Company responded to a fire alarm at 13427 DuPont Circle on the property of historic Montpelier. As Engine 23 was arriving at the reported address of the fire alarm, they were informed of a building fire at 13409 Garden Road on another part of the property. Engine 23 was on scene within 6 minutes and reported heavy fire conditions on the front porch, attic, and the interior of a single story wood frame building housing the archeology office with extension into the semi-attached archeology lab. The Orange County 911 Center upgraded the fire alarm to a full structural response with an added *working fire dispatch* above the first alarm.

The crew on Engine 23, assisted by the crew of Truck 23, initiated an aggressive attack and quick knockdown on the porch fire and made entry into the building. A water supply was established at a nearby hydrant. Command was transferred to Chief 23. As additional Fire & EMS crews arrived, additional hand lines were deployed and crews were assigned to various tasks including fire suppression in the office, in the lab and to RIT. Early in the incident as crews were trying to access, by ladder, fire in the attic, a partial collapse of the front porch roof caused the ladder to fall. A total of 3 firefighters were injured during this accident. All denied transport by EMS.

At this time, it appears that fire damage was limited to the porch, front room of the office building, and attic of the office building with smoke, water and heat damage throughout and attic damage to the lab building. Extensive salvage and overhaul operations were required to save and salvage all artifacts contained in these facilities. The last unit cleared the scene at 9:31 PM.

The following companies responded to the fire : Orange Volunteer Fire Company, County of Orange Fire & EMS, Barboursville Volunteer Fire Company, Gordonsville Volunteer Fire Company, Rapidan Volunteer Fire Company, and Lake of the Woods Volunteer Fire Company.

The fire remains under investigation by the County of Orange Fire & EMS Fire Marshal. No damage report has been provided thus far. There were no injuries to civilians.

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