



PRESS RELEASE



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Investigation Finds Garage Fire Was Caused by Fireworks

Poudre Fire Authority and Fort Collins Police Services (FCPS) responded to a garage fire on Bison Rd. on Saturday, July 6 at about 9:30 p.m. Firefighters could see evidence of fire as they approached and arrived to see a garage fully engulfed in 25 to 30 ft. high flames. After a thorough review, PFA and FCPS investigators determined that the fire was accidental and caused by used fireworks that were in the garage.

Upon arrival, the firefighters quickly attacked the fire from the exterior and prevented it from spreading from the attached garage to the home. The UCHHealth ambulance team on scene assessed one patient who was released. There were thankfully no injuries. The fire caused an estimated \$150,000 in damages. “The residual heat from the fireworks was enough to ignite nearby cardboard which led to the entire involvement of the garage,” said a PFA investigator. City Council made fireworks illegal in Fort Collins city limits in the 1970s partly because of risks like these to life and property. “The smoke from garage fires can be especially toxic,” said Battalion Chief Jim Pietrangelo who was on scene.

A member of Poudre Fire Authority’s Customer Assistance Response Team, or CART, responded to the fire to connect the residents with resources, including the Red Cross, a restoration company, and car seats. The team member also helped them secure a place to stay for the night at Homewood Suites, one of CART’s partner businesses. They offer room vouchers to displaced residents through the program.

Thank you to our many partners that helped in this response including those already mentioned and Fort Collins Light and Power and Fort Collins Storm Water.