



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Fire Burns Multiple Structures North of Fort Collins**

Fire investigators remain on the scene of a fire that involved multiple structures near 5656 N. Highway 1, about seven miles north of Fort Collins. Multiple units were dispatched at 7:19 p.m. last night, and the first crew arrived on scene at 7:26 p.m. Upon arrival, firefighters found a detached garage, about 10 ft. from the house, fully engulfed. Two additional structures next to the garage became involved in the fire. The residents were evacuated from the home and did not suffer any injuries. One grey cat was assisted by PFA and UCHealth. The cat emerged from the garage after the flames were knocked down. The fire investigation was in progress when they heard meowing from inside the garage. "It came out slowly and seemed completely disoriented. She was all wet and covered with ash so I just picked her up," said a firefighter on scene. He delivered her to the UCHealth ambulance on scene, which provided care.

The firefighters had the fire 'knocked down' by around 8:30 p.m., meaning the active flames of the fire were out. A 'fire watch crew' remained at the scene through the night monitoring for flare-ups. They used thermal imagers and walked the area until morning.

Structure fires often involve many areas inside the buildings that are unsafe to enter such as crawl spaces or platform shelving. Structures can become unstable and impossible to enter safely. In this case, the roof of one structure collapsed. PFA takes these risks very seriously and firefighters attack the fire from the outside when necessary.

PFA's Customer Assistance Response Team, or CART, was dispatched to assist the residents. CART team members help people displaced by fire navigate tragic events such as these by providing support that can include finding temporary lodging, starting insurance claims and more.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Thank you to our partners who also responded to the scene tonight including: Wellington Fire Protection District, UCHealth and the Larimer County Sheriff's Office.

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