

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Fire guts Port Royal seafood center, smoke and water damage Dockside Restaurant

An early morning blaze Sunday heavily damaged the Port Royal seafood warehouse adjacent the popular Dockside Restaurant and the fire remained under investigation Sunday night.

When firefighters arrived at 5:30 a.m., the seafood processing and warehouse structure were engulfed in fire with an estimated 75 percent of the structure in flames, Beaufort-Port Royal Fire Chief Sammy Negron said.

“Firefighters brought the fire under control in about 30 minutes, but it took us close to four hours to completely extinguish the fire,” Negron said. “The responding fire units did an amazing job with this fire to limit the damage as much as possible, and we are fortunate no one was injured.”

The 11th Street Dockside Restaurant received smoke and water damage and will be closed until further notice.

Investigators from the Beaufort-Port Royal Fire Department, Port Royal Police Department and State Law Enforcement Division continued to probe what caused the fire, Negron said.

Firefighters from the Burton Fire District, Lady’s Island-St. Helena Island Fire District and Parris Island assisted in the putting out the fire.

“We train together, we have mutual aid agreements, and with the restricted access to the shrimp dock building and warehouse, it was important that we all knew how to work together,” Negron said. Fire trucks and investigators were still on the scene at noon Sunday.

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