

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Contact: Scott Dadson, Beaufort City Manager, [843-525-7070](tel:843-525-7070)

Photo (attached): Firefighters at the scene of Wednesday's Port Royal fire (photo credit / Susan DeLoach)

Area firefighters battle Port Royal blaze Wednesday night, investigation ongoing

Knocking down the first major flames, area firefighters found hidden fires in a Port Royal structure's walls that required hours of battling Wednesday night. Once the ashes cooled, fire investigators and local law officers arrived to search for clues to what started the fire.

The Town of Port Royal, City of Beaufort and Burton Fire departments responded to a structure fire at 709 Paris Avenue on Wednesday at 9:48 p.m. The first arriving units reported smoke and flames showing from the front of the small commercial building. Fire crews worked quickly to knock down the main body of the fire inside the structure and in the attic.

"This was a very persistent fire for a small building" said Beaufort Deputy Fire Chief Clay Scoggins.

The fire was seated deep in the exterior walls of the building. The remaining hidden fire required the more than 25 responding career and volunteer firefighters to conduct extensive operations to extinguish the blaze.

As is the case with most structure fires in the county, the Beaufort County Fire Scene Investigation Team arrived to investigate the cause and origin of the fire. The FSI team worked well into the night at the scene and today was working with local law enforcement to complete the investigation. The case remains under review and no report is yet available.

END

--

John C. Williams, APR
williams group / pr / LLC
making public / relations personal

www.williamsgroup-pr.com
[843.263.6200](tel:843.263.6200)