



**PRESS RELEASE**

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Matthew Knott  
Division Chief**

---

**January 6, 2015**

**Phone: (815) 987-5660**

**E-mail: [Matt.Knott@Rockfordil.gov](mailto:Matt.Knott@Rockfordil.gov)**

**Commercial Building Fire**

ROCKFORD – The Rockford Fire Department was dispatched to 1916 11<sup>th</sup> Street for a structure fire at 0137 hrs. this morning. Rockford firefighters arrived on scene in approximately 5 minutes to find heavy smoke and fire coming from the back of the structure. Upon size-up, firefighters realized that, due to the volume of fire, a defensive approach was necessary. Additional resources were called to the scene to assist and, at one point, 4 aerials, 5 engines, 2 ambulances, and 4 Chief Officers were operating at this incident. This structure is 125' x 400' and was four stories tall. This building has been determined to be a total loss.

The structure located to the south of the main fire building (1930 11<sup>th</sup> Street) also caught fire, due to the heavy fire volume and partial collapse of the original fire building. This structure is approximately 100' x 325' and sustained heavy fire damage and structural collapse. This structure has been determined to be a total loss.

Occupants of the Sunset Motel, located immediately south of the incident, were evacuated and relocated with the assistance of the American Red Cross and the Rockford Mass Transit District. ComEd assisted in securing power to the building and, due to safety concerns, had to shut down power to the immediate area. ComEd stated that at one point, this affected 150 customers.

Due to the cold conditions and multiple resources committed to this fire, off-duty Rockford Fire Department personnel were called back to place additional apparatus in

service. Mutual aid from two surrounding fire departments was also utilized to assist with providing fire protection to the remainder of the city until additional resources could be mobilized.

One firefighter sustained a minor injury early into the incident, due to a fall. He was treated and released from a local hospital.

The investigation into the cause of this fire is ongoing and additional updates will be provided as they become available.

###