

Town of



AMHERST
FIRE DEPARTMENT

Massachusetts

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Press release

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At 2158 hours the Amherst Communication Center received multiple calls via 911 reporting a fire in apartment #54 of the Presidential Apartments which are located at #950 North Pleasant Street. The fire was reported by tenants of other apartments in the complex who saw smoke coming from the apartment on the first floor. The first arriving engine company found heavy smoke in the first floor apartment after forcing entry. The fire in the living room of apartment #54 was quickly extinguished. The rest of the building was searched to confirm that it had been completely vacated. The occupants of apartment #54 were not home at the time of the fire but did return shortly after the fire had been extinguished. There were no injuries to any residents or firefighters.

Fire damage was confined to the living room of apartment #54, although the entire apartment suffered extensive heat and smoke damage throughout the apartment. The first and second floor common hallway and stairwell also received smoke damage. The other apartment units in the building were not damaged. The town's building inspector was on scene and has ordered one half of the building closed due to various issues including the smoke detectors in the common hallway needing to be replaced. In all tenants of four units have been displaced; tenants of the other units in the building were allowed to return to their apartments. Displaced tenants were allowed to collect some belongings before finding alternate housing for the night.

The cause of the fire is not known at this time although it is believed to have originated in a couch in the living room of apartment #54. Fire investigators from the Amherst Fire Department and the Amherst Police Department were on scene conducting a thorough investigation. At this time there is no dollar estimate available for the damage. The building is managed by Kamins Realty who had personnel on scene to secure the building.

The Amherst Fire Department response included the nine on-duty firefighters staffing two pumpers and an ambulance, off-duty fulltime firefighters, Call Firefighters, and Student volunteer firefighters who staffed the ladder truck, the Rescue Truck, and two additional pumpers, and two chief officers. The Amherst Police Department was also on scene and assisted with scene control.