

Blaze guts building

No injuries after six hour, multi-town response

By Kevin Ford
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KINGSTON – A three alarm blaze gutted the Jesse Kitchens cabinet store and a second-floor apartment on Pembroke Street late Tuesday night. There were no serious injuries reported. One firefighter was taken to the hospital for possible smoke inhalation but was quickly examined and released.

The Kingston Fire Department was called shortly after 11 p.m. by an occupant of the apartment above the store. Smoke alarms had gone off and the caller reported heavy smoke in the hallway. All three occupants escaped safely.

After an initial response by the Kingston Fire Department, assistance was requested from four neighboring towns. Duxbury sent a ladder and an engine, Pembroke sent two engines and Plymouth sent two engines. Carver Fire Department covered the Pembroke Street station.

Approximately 55 firefighters fought the blaze for two hours before bringing it under control. Capt. David Benari said the volume of fire was so heavy, firefighters couldn't get inside the building for at least an hour.

The store contained cans of paint,



Photo by David Curran

Firefighters battle a 3 alarm blaze at Jesse's Kitchen and Bath Center on Pembroke Street .

containers of glue, and other chemical-based home improvement materials. Binari said responders reported hearing several small explosions caused by burning canisters. Despite heavy smoke in the area, no neighboring buildings required evacuation.

Smaller pockets of fire within the walls kept firefighters busy until 5 the next morning. The fire marshall had yet to finish an investigation by press time, but Benari said that the fire appears to be accidental.