



Berthoud Fire Protection District

275 Mountain Ave, Berthoud, CO 80513

Phone: (970) 532-2264

“To Serve, To Care, To Support”

-PRESS RELEASE-

Subject: Fully Involved Out Building Structure Fire

Date: April 28, 2018

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At 5:17 p.m. Berthoud Fire Protection District responded to a fully involved out building fire in the 22000 block of Weld County Rd. 3. Berthoud Fire responded with Engine 1, Engine 2, and a water tender. Loveland Fire Rescue Authority also responded with an engine and water tender. The flames were approximately 20-25 feet high upon time of arrival. The garage structure was approximately 50' x 20' in size. The fire was creating a substantial smoke plume. There were other structures in the area such as a home, 3 silos and other out buildings that were not immediately threatened by the fire.

Lieutenant Fenderson declared defensive strategy due to the advanced fire conditions. Crews used a combination of foam suppressant and water. Units established a tanker shuttle using a hydrant 1 mile north of the scene to provide a water supply for fire suppression. The water tenders from Berthoud and Loveland worked in tandem, delivering 1800-2000 gallons of water to the scene.

(A water tender is used to provide additional sources of water to the fire and can be refilled during an event. A water tender releases several thousand gallons of water into a portable tank that is set-up by firefighters on scene. Once the tank is filled from the water tender apparatus, the water tender will leave the scene to retrieve additional water from a source. In this instance, there was a hydrant approximately one mile away from the scene that water was utilized to fill up the water tender).

Some of the fire spread to grass nearby but was kept from further spread.

By 5:26 p.m. Berthoud crews had the fire under control. At 5:49 p.m. the fire was fully extinguished and crews began identifying and mitigating any remaining hot spots in the debris by adding water. This procedure helps prevent a possible rekindling of heat or embers once the scene is cleared.

There were several combustibles inside the structure during the fire such as fuel, propane, and ammunition. This can create a dangerous situation for firefighters as these elements begin exploding in the fire. A crew's Officer approaches these situations with caution while still fully engaging with fighting the fire.

The structure was a total loss along with 5 vehicles inside including a van, truck, sedan, tractor, and mower. No one was injured and no animals were involved.

Investigations began immediately once the fire was extinguished and Berthoud Fire had the assistance of a Longmont Fire investigator who was on scene at the time. The cause of the fire is undermined but the origin is believed to be in or around the mower that had been used earlier in the day.

Berthoud Fire crews cleared the scene around 8 p.m.