



MEDIA RELEASE

FIRE ON KING STREET CONTINUES TO BURN

For Immediate Release – January 16, 2014 – 11:30 a.m.

Welland – Welland Fire and Emergency Services continue to battle a blaze that began around 2:00 am this morning at a former hotel turned rooming house at 300 King Street between Albert and Park Streets. Fire fighters will remain on the scene throughout the day keeping the active fire under control.

Chief Prevost has been on the scene since early this morning and is putting measures in place to ensure the area is safe. “Heavy equipment is being brought in to the area to begin removing parts of the structure that are considered unstable and to assist firefighters in extinguishing the persistent blaze”, said Prevost. “At this time we only intend to remove those portions of the structure that we feel are necessary to ensure the safety of the surrounding structures and fire fighters”. No damage has been reported to any of the buildings surrounding the fire.

The City’s chief building official, Mike Mantesso, is preparing a two part Order that will require the structure and surrounding areas to be secured for the time-being and demolished in due course. In order to secure the site, fencing will be brought in and will encompass the remaining structure and surrounding area, including the sidewalk – pedestrians are asked to use the sidewalk on the West side of King Street.

Residents of homes in the surrounding area that were evacuated earlier this morning are expected to be able to return to their homes this afternoon, Chief Prevost has advised. However, King Street between Griffith and Lincoln is expected to be closed for at least the balance of the day today.

For those individuals that have been displaced as a result of the fire, Red Cross and Niagara Region Social Services are making arrangements for temporary housing and other assistance, as necessary.

All persons residing in the vicinity are encouraged to keep windows closed to minimize smoke odours and all residents are asked to avoid the area today. “Our primary concern, while this blaze continues is the safety of the public and fire fighters as they continue to fight this fire; the cooperation of the public is greatly appreciated”, stated Chief Prevost.

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