

Media Release

For Immediate Release

Port Colborne Industrial Fire at Vinyl Works Canada

Port Colborne, Ont. (February 7, 2018) – 1:45 p.m.

Update from Fire Chief Tom Cartwright & Deputy Fire Chief Mike Bendia:

- Just before 07:39 a.m. on Tuesday, February 6, 2018 an Industrial fire broke out at Vinyl Works Canada, 2174 Barber Road in Port Colborne.
- Hot spots still exist that are smoldering and producing smoke. Residents are reminded that if they see or smell smoke to stay indoors with windows and doors closed. The wind direction is currently North West.
- The Ministry of Environment has monitored the air quality and water run-off. The water run-off used to fight the fire was contained on-site. There has been no significant dangerous contaminants identified in either.
- Rankin Construction has arrived on scene to open part of the building to allow Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services to access the hot spots.
- Damages are currently being estimated in excess of one million dollars (building and contents).
- Through mutual aid, tankers have been provided by Wainfleet, Fort Erie, Pelham, Welland, Niagara Falls and Thorold. Welland also provided a ladder and engine. Personnel also accompanied the apparatuses from these municipalities.
- Investigation is being conducted by the Office of the Ontario Fire Marshall, Niagara Regional Police Services and Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services. A drone is also being provided by the Niagara Regional police to assist with the investigation.
- Road closures will continue on Barber Road & 2nd Concession. Hwy 140 is open but there is no access to 2nd Concession. Closures will remain until the scene is cleared by Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services. Niagara Regional Police Services are preventing access to the scene.
- Agencies that have assisted: Port Colborne Operations staff, Regional Fire Departments, Enbridge, Canadian Niagara Power, Ministry of Environment, Niagara Regional Police Services, Niagara Region employees, and Rankin Construction.

Deputy Fire Chief Mike Bendia would like to thank all agencies, especially Port Colborne Operations staff and all Regional Fire Departments that have provided mutual aid.

“We are extremely thankful for the mutual aid assistance received from across the Region to assist Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services,” commented Scott Luey, CAO, City of Port Colborne.

“Our commitment to come together to aid communities in need demonstrates our collective strength”.

“Thank you to Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services and Port Colborne staff for their tireless efforts over the past two days ensuring residents remained safe,” said Mayor John Maloney. “I would also like to thank the residents for staying clear of the area to allow crews to perform their duties, along with your messages of encouragement”.

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