



LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Division of Fire and Emergency Services
Public Information Office
PRESS RELEASE

Mayor Jim Gray
Harold Hoskins, Interim Fire Chief

Joe Best, Battalion Chief

February 12, 2016
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Bluegrass Stockyards Fire Fact Sheet

For Immediate Release

- At approximately 2:19 p.m., Jan. 30, units from the Lexington Division of Fire and Emergency Services responded to a structure fire at the Bluegrass Stockyards, 375 Lisle Industrial Ave.
- First arriving companies from the fire department reported heavy smoke and fire conditions.
- The fire was wind-driven and rapidly advanced through the stockyards.
- The first arriving fire district major requested a second alarm response, as fire crews attempted to stop the spread of the fire to the adjacent structures. The second alarm was sounded at 2:24 p.m.
- The fire rapidly advanced across Lisle Industrial Avenue. The fire began to ignite vehicles in the parking lot of Slim's Towing, as well as an office building belonging to Leak Eliminators. High voltage power lines on Lisle Industrial Avenue and wooden utility poles caught fire, as well.
- With the arrival of the second platoon battalion chief, the fire was upgraded to a third alarm at 2:30 p.m. Off-duty personnel and firefighters were called in to respond to the fire.
- The fire was deemed "under control" at approximately 5:20 p.m.

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- Fire suppression efforts continued until approximately 4:13 p.m., Jan. 31.
- The area was continuously monitored by fire companies until approximately 6 p.m., Feb. 2.
- Investigators from the Lexington Division of Fire and Emergency Services and the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives conducted a joint investigation into the origin and cause of the fire.
- Investigators have determined the fire was started accidentally by construction workers, who were doing roofing work at the stockyards.

In addition to the Bluegrass Stockyards, the fire affected buildings belonging to Leak Eliminators, Viking Wholesale and Slim's Towing and several other businesses. The fire destroyed 184 vehicles, and killed 49 head of cattle. Additional damage reports to property are expected to be updated prior to the finalized report.

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