

Incident Summary

Incident 002242: Fire at “Prezzo” Harrogate



Prezzo

2-4 Albert Street

Harrogate

18th March 2014

1.0 Details of the Incident & Background

On the 18th March 2014 at 11:37hrs North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (NYFRS) received a 999 call to a fire in an extraction fan at Prezzo Albert Street, Harrogate, North Yorkshire. This was a three storey mid terrace building in Harrogate Town Centre and consisted of an Italian restaurant (Prezzo) on the ground floor, a vacant commercial office unit on the 1st floor and 14 self contained residential housing association flats on the 1st and 2nd floors. The building construction is of stone and brick with a tiled roof.

Fire Control mobilised an initial attendance of 2 fire appliances (fire engines), one from Harrogate and one from Knaresborough and a flexible duty officer was informed. Upon arrival the Officer in Charge (OIC) was informed by a maintenance man that he had been working on the ducting that extracted the fumes from the cooking area of the restaurant and that he had removed an inspection plate and could see fire within the ducting. Upon entering the restaurant the OIC found there was a smell of burning fat and light hazy smoke at ceiling height.

Crews initially deployed four firefighters wearing breathing apparatus (BA), with hose reels, to investigate further and provide further information to the OIC. At 11:51hrs an assistance message "make pumps three*" was sent to Control and at 12:06hrs this was increased to four pumps and an Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP).

Upon arrival of the Flexible Duty Officer a further assistance message "make pumps six" was sent. Due to the unknown internal construction of the building the fire spread undetected to the first floor, additionally, information was received that there was the possibility of persons reported** within the first floor flats, this resulted in a further assistance message "make pumps eight" being sent.

At 14:36hrs the Group Manager in charge sent a further assistance message "make pumps twelve for breathing apparatus" and at 14:59hrs a "make pumps eighteen & ALPs two" was sent as it was believed the fire could spread to the adjacent buildings. An "all persons accounted for" message was sent at 17:27hrs. The building contained a number of false ceilings which the ducting passed through, and this had allowed fire and smoke to travel undetected whilst crews established where the fire was located.

In total eighteen Fire Appliances (including six from West Yorkshire) attended the incident along with two Aerial Ladder Platforms (ALP), one Incident Command Unit and two Incident Support Units. Eight Flexible Duty Officers including the Chief Fire Officer were also in attendance. The Stop message was sent at 17:14hrs on 22nd March 2014, meaning no further fire engines were required at the scene. The Service was in attendance at the scene for five days damping down and carrying out Fire Investigation work.

*This is a request for further fire engines to be sent to the incident scene to take the total number of fire engines at the incident to three.

** This means there is a possibility of people being inside the building