

Town of Christiansburg, Virginia 24073

100 East Main Street ~ Telephone 540-382-6128 ~ Fax 540-382-7338



ESTABLISHED
NOVEMBER 10, 1792

INCORPORATED
JANUARY 7, 1833

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DILLON, P.C.

*****FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE*****

Montgomery County Courthouse Roof Fire

Date & Time: 6/09/11 at 12:10 p.m.

Emergency crews responded to a construction fire at the new Montgomery County Courthouse building in downtown Christiansburg this morning.

The fire was called in at 7:46 a.m. by a construction worker.

The Christiansburg Fire Department was on the scene within four minutes to begin putting out the flames.

The fire was contained by 8:20 a.m. and completely extinguished by approximately 9:05 a.m.

It was determined that the fire began when a worker was welding a bracket for an air handler (A/C unit) on the roof when flames got into Styrofoam insulation.

Approximately 40 construction workers were in the building when the fire broke out. All were evacuated safely and no injuries were reported.

The fire was contained to the roof of the four story building. Damage is considered minimal and was limited to stacks of insulation and two air handler units. No cost estimates are immediately available.

The Blacksburg Fire Department assisted in extinguishing the fire. The Christiansburg Police Department and Christiansburg Rescue Squad were also assisting on the scene.

Montgomery County Administrator Craig Meadows stated, "We are very fortunate that no one was injured and there was minimal damage to the building. We are very appreciative of the quick response from the Christiansburg and Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Departments. Christiansburg Police also were on scene immediately and helped tremendously."

Construction on the \$19.1 million facility was halted for the day but will resume tomorrow. Today's fire is not expected to delay the January 2012 opening of the building.

DeVere Construction of Alpena, Michigan, is building the 102,500 square foot facility to replace the current Courthouse.

The American Red Cross is providing food, refreshments and other relief to emergency crews at the Christiansburg Fire Department. They received donations from Country Kitchen and discounts from R & R Market.

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Additional photos may be viewed at www.MontgomeryCountyVA.gov

Any additional information related to this event will be sent via press release as it becomes available.

Contact: Becky Wilburn, Town of Christiansburg (540) 505-9173
Ruth Richey, Montgomery County (540) 381-6887