

—Slug:.....COMM-0866.rock.Rodeway_fire
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—For section.....News
—Format.....News - byline and dateline
—Dateline.....Rockingham
—Article Number:.....43652



Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Residents remain housed despite fire damage at Bellows
2 Falls motel

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

3 At the Rodeway Inn, the cause of the two-alarm fire,
4 confined to office building, remains under investigation

####END SUBHED####

5 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

6 A two-alarm fire last week that had the potential of
7 leaving dozens of vulnerable residents homeless was contained
8 quickly enough to prevent a much more serious disaster.

9 Damage from the May 11 blaze at the Rodeway Inn at
10 593 Rockingham Rd. was limited to the main structure of the
11 motel and did not affect any of the rooms.

12 An estimated 40 to 50 residents who are in the General
13 Assistance Emergency Housing program have been able to stay in
14 their rooms.

15 Miranda Gray, deputy commissioner of the Economic
16 Services Division of the Vermont Department for Children and
17 Families, confirmed the fire and Rodeway Inn's participation in
18 the hotel voucher program.

19 In addition to Rockingham, fire departments in
20 Westminster, Springfield, and Walpole, New Hampshire,
21 responded to the late morning fire quickly enough to contain the
22 blaze.

23 Power was shut off to the motel's 24 rooms for about a
24 day after the fire was brought under control, and residents were
25 allowed to stay in their rooms overnight without power or heat.

26 According to Rockingham Municipal Fire Chief Shaun
27 McGinnis, the utilities are back on "and, since only the main
28 office building was affected" by the fire, "guests are being
29 allowed to stay."

30 "However," Gray said, "if a household reached out and
31 requested to be moved, Economic Services had a plan in place to
32 move the households."

33 None of the residents made that request.

34 An employee received a minor first-degree burn, the only
35 injury reported from the fire.

36 McGinnis said that, while the fire is not suspicious, the
37 Vermont State Police and the Division of Fire Safety are handling
38 the investigation.

39 He said that the investigation into the cause of the fire
40 has been difficult because of the extent of the damage and "will
41 most likely take a little while."

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

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LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

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LINKS:

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VIDEO:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

46

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