

Statement of New Bedford Fire Chief Paul Coderre regarding response to Myrtle Street Fire

“At 5:05 p.m. on Saturday December 28, the New Bedford Fire Department received multiple 911 calls reporting a structure fire at 141-143 Myrtle Street. Upon arriving 1 minute and 40 seconds from the time of the alarm, Command Unit 1 reported heavy fire conditions on the second floor with a report of residents trapped on the second floor.

Ladder Company 1 arrived 2 minutes and 22 seconds from the time of the alarm, and Engine 8 arrived in 3 minutes and 53 seconds. Other apparatuses also responded after that time. The response of the New Bedford Fire Department was consistent with the national standard for fire response time according to the National Fire Protection Association.

Crews from Ladder Company 1 and Engine Company 8 made their way to the second floor. They conducted a simultaneous interior fire attack and search and rescue operation. The crew of Ladder Company 1 quickly searched and located a male occupant. He was rescued from the apartment and his care was transferred to NBEMS Paramedics and transported to St. Luke’s Hospital Emergency Department, where he ultimately succumbed to his injuries. The New Bedford Fire Department extends its sincere condolences to the family of the victim.

The two-family residence suffered extensive damage. At this time, the cause of the fire remains undetermined and under investigation which is being conducted by the New Bedford Fire Department Investigation Unit and Police along with State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.”