

# Worker who called in fire slightly injured

*Fire likely accidental, York police say*

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Staff Writer

A luxury home that was under construction in the Preston Lake area was burned to the ground Sunday afternoon.

Shortly after 2 p.m. Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire and Emergency Services were called out to the home at 59 Abbotsford Rd., after a 9-1-1 call from the lone construction worker who managed to escape the blaze and run to a neighbour's home to make the call.

"A worker on-site discovered the fire in the basement and he attempted, unsuccessfully, to extinguish the fire prior to calling 9-1-1," said Jeff Bignell, Whitchurch-Stouffville's fire prevention officer.

"He had been in that area (earlier in the day doing some work) and a short time later he

observed some smoke coming out of the basement," said Const. Marina Orlovski, York Regional Police spokesperson.

"The home was completely involved by fire and thick smoke when we arrived," Mr. Bignell said. "Strong winds and unprotected interior wood framing were factors in increasing the fire spread."

Crews from the Central York and Whitchurch-Stouffville fire departments responded to the call.

The home was three-quarters of the way complete and valued at \$1.5 million, according to York Regional Police who are still investigating the incident, although they suspect it was accidental.


The construction worker was the only person to sustain any injuries, which were minor. He was treated at the scene and released. A neighbouring home sustained minor smoke damage, according to Mr. Bignell.

—with files from  
Bill Roberts



STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

Central York (Aurora and Newmarket) firefighters helped Whitchurch-Stouffville firefighters battle a blaze at a home under construction north of Gormley Sunday. The nearly completed luxury home, near Woodbine Avenue and Bloomington Road, was destroyed. Here, Dave Boucher is handed a piece of equipment by a fellow Central York firefighter.



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