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STAFF PHOTO/ALI RAZA

Firefighters put out a blaze at a home on Blair Road Monday.

Worker tried to extinguish fire he started

It doesn't take much for a flame to spread and Whitchurch-Stouffville firefighters witnessed fire's destructive pace as they quickly responded to the scene of a house fire on Blair Road and Dorman Drive in east-end Stouffville Monday afternoon.

The repairman was taken to the hospital as a precaution as he'd inhaled smoke while trying to put the initial fire out. He did not stay overnight.

No other injuries were reported as firefighters managed to douse the flames and prevent it from engulfing the house. The fire began in the back of the house as a repairman was working on a hot tub in a sunroom. It soon spread to the garage and into the house, but the structure remained undamaged.

However, much of the contents in the garage were burned. Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire and Emergency Services' initial report estimates a damage of \$300,000 to the Blair

Road house.

"That's not just the fire," said Fire Chief Rob McKenzie. "It's also smoke and water damage, the main house wasn't really affected by a lot of fire, but it was heavily damaged by smoke."

York Region police officers and paramedics were also on scene.

"He acknowledged that the fire was started and he tried to extinguish it," McKenzie said. "He said he made sure everyone was out of the house."

As the neighbourhood filled with the smell of smoke, residents came out of their homes to see firefighters in action. One resident told YorkRegion.com there were reports of an explosion, while others said it was the sound of "something collapsing." The house and garage remain standing, but there is extensive damage to the rear of the home, witnesses said.

- Ali Raza

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