



# County of Powhatan, Virginia



## Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact:

Brigid Paciello, Public Information Officer

Email: [bpaciello@powhatanva.gov](mailto:bpaciello@powhatanva.gov) Phone: (804) 598-5696

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## Powhatan County Firefighters Rescue Horse in Barn Fire

**POWHATAN, VA** – In a remarkable display of bravery and quick action, Powhatan County Firefighters successfully rescued a horse from a barn fire in the 1500 block of Dorset Road. The Powhatan County 911 Communications Center received the emergency call at approximately 7:30 PM, Sunday, January 21. Dispatchers rapidly processed and dispatched the call within a minute.

Upon receiving the alert, units were immediately dispatched to the scene and arrived on scene within 6 minutes. Early reports indicated that horses were trapped inside the barn. Thanks to the efforts of a quick-thinking passerby, five horses were rescued before the arrival of the fire department.

Under challenging conditions with near zero visibility and intense flames, Lieutenant Holland, Firefighters Zirkle and Pheiffer advanced a 2 1/2-inch hose line approximately 50 feet into the barn. Their actions were pivotal in slowing the spread of the fire and providing necessary protection while they searched for any remaining horses.

The firefighters located a trapped horse in a stall. Firefighter Pheiffer utilized a bar to force open the stall door, enabling them to lead the horse to safety with the assistance of a rope. Regrettably, despite their valiant efforts, three horses perished in the fire.

The rescue operation involved a water tanker shuttle, which delivered approximately 15,000 gallons of water to combat the blaze effectively. The Virginia Department of Transportation (V.D.O.T.) was requested to provide a sand truck to address the ice formation on the road due to water runoff from the firefighting efforts.

Units from Companies 2, 1, 4, including Engines and Tankers, along with Tanker 705, Truck 701, and Rescue 702, responded to the incident. The Powhatan Sheriff's Office and State Police managed traffic control during the operation.

The rescued horse sustained burns and received immediate veterinary care on the scene. The Powhatan Fire Department extends its heartfelt condolences to the owners for the loss of their horses and commends the bravery of all involved in this challenging rescue operation.



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