

## **Canton Fire Department Press Release for Chief Michael Dalton**

LOCATION: SUNY CANTON-COOK HALL 34 Cornell Drive Canton NY 13617

INCIDENT DATE: FEBRUARY 10 2012

Over the past four days the following agencies participated in a comprehensive investigation into the origin and cause of the fire on campus in Cook Hall late Friday morning.

St. Lawrence County Bureau of Fire Investigation

SUNY Canton Police Department

NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Office of Fire Prevention and Control

The origin of the fire was determined to be in a Chemistry Prep/Storage room, located on the north end, second floor of Cook Hall. This area was used in the preparation of chemistry laboratory student activities of various College programs. Through the course of a thorough investigation, investigators were able to determine the following:

- Preliminary reports of an explosion and the presence of individuals in the room at the time of the incident were determined to be unfounded.
- Use of smoking materials, utilities, including electricity, heating, air conditioning, and electric appliances in the room of origin were eliminated as sources of ignition.
- The fire spread rapidly from the incipient stage to free burning stage which is consistent with a fire which originates from a chemical reaction.
- Chemicals and substances stored in this area are known to increase fire intensity.
- At this time the investigation has revealed no indication, that the fire was the result of an intentional or criminal act.

Due to the scope and magnitude of the incident and the presence of hazardous materials on the scene the following agencies provided assistance and support;

10 Fire Departments from St. Lawrence County assisted Village of Canton Fire Department

St. Lawrence County Hazardous Materials

Village of Canton Police Department

Village of Potsdam Police Department

David E. Sullivan Police Academy

NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services - Office of Emergency Management

NYS Department of Health

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

NYS Police Aviation Unit

NYS Department of Labor

St. Lawrence County Office of Emergency Management