



BLAZE - Fire fighters from a number of fire departments rushed to the scene of this blaze on Hope Avenue in Bay Roberts during the early evening of Dec. 30, 2004.

NEW YEAR'S EVE BLAZE LEVELS Bay Roberts business

BY LILLIAN SIMMONS
The Compass

"Devastated...
"It's unbearable to know that something you worked at for 26 years... can be gone in an hour and a half," said a distraught Fred Andrews the day after fire destroyed Andrews Wholesale in Bay Roberts.
"We've worked so hard...excuse me, for being emotional...
"But it was lucky nobody got hurt," Mr. Andrews continued, recovering

quickly at the thought. "The staff was in the building."
Mr. Andrews started the wholesale business on the Birch Hills and moved to the Hope Avenue location about 12 years ago. Andrews Wholesale employs 35 staff with two shifts — night and day. The shifts were changing when the fire broke out.
Bay Roberts Fire Chief Clarence Russell said his department got the call at 5:15 p.m. last Thursday, Dec. 30.
"I don't know how the fire started, that won't be investigated until tomorrow," the chief told *The Compass* last Friday, New Year's Eve. "It looks like it started around the front loading doors."
Besides Bay Roberts, fire departments from Spaniard's Bay, Cupids, Brigus, Harbour Grace and Carbonear responded to the fire that blazed until around 2 a.m. New Year's Eve.
One Harbour Grace fire fighter suffered smoke inhalation. There were no other injuries during the fire.
"Carbonear sent their aerial ladder truck in case we needed it and I believe Upper Island Cove put their pumper in

Spaniard's Bay to be central if they needed to cover for us."
Chief Russell said he left a crew of seven men at the site throughout the night.
"Seven more men went in 7:30 this morning to watch the hot spots. It was noon today (Friday) before we were sure it was safe to leave it."
Apparently the 12,000 square foot building contained everything from juice to potatoes to feed.

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Fire destroys business

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Atlantic Wholesale.
Second call
While fire fighters concentrated on the Hope Avenue blaze another fire broke out in Shearstown.
"Spaniard's Bay went back to their station at 8:30 to look after their equipment and at 9:20 we had a call for a residential fire in Shearstown" said Chief Russell

Atlantic Wholesale.

Second call

Meanwhile, Fred Andrews acknowledged the loss is a dispiriting way to begin the new year.
Since his retirement Mr. Andrews' sons Scott and Barry have been running the business and the senior Andrews says they are determined to go forward

Looking ahead

Everything was flattened," said Chief Russell. "They're estimating about \$1 million."
Luckily the night was calm and Atlantic Wholesale, located about 50 feet away was spared.
"Harbour Grace put foam on Atlantic Wholesale's building to keep it from spreading" said

