

St. Lucie County Fire District News Release



Contact: Catherine W. Chaney
Public Information Officer
St. Lucie County Fire District
772-621-3333
cchaney@slcfd.org

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Sprinklers Save Business from Major Fire

Sunday Afternoon Fire Could Have Cost the Company Millions

St. Lucie County, FL – A Sunday afternoon fire in a commercial structure could have burned for hours if it had not been for a fire alarm and sprinkler system in the empty building. The result could have been a disaster for the business, according to fire officials.

Fire broke out around 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 8 in the Maverick Boat Company, at 3054 Industrial 31st Street, Ft. Pierce. A vacuum pump malfunctioned and ignited the wood table it was sitting on and nearby wood pallets.

“It took the crew only 2 minutes to arrive after they were dispatched, but in an empty building, without the alarm and the sprinklers, that 2 minutes could have easily been much longer,” explained Fire Chief Ron Parrish. “This is a prime example of the alarm and sprinklers making the difference between an inconvenience and a disaster for this business.”

Arriving fire crews saw light black smoke coming from the air vents on the building. They made forced entry, and located the fire by the single sprinkler head that was activated.

“Here at Maverick we understand the importance of good industrial hygiene, a strong maintenance and inspections program, and quality monitored safety systems. An electrical issue that could have developed into a major event was self extinguished when the fire department arrived, despite their lightning fast response. The system worked exactly as designed and we were up and running Monday AM as though nothing had happened,” said John Deal, President of Maverick Boats

Maverick Boats is the builder of four brands - Maverick and Hewes shallow water boats, Pathfinder Bay Boats, and Cobia offshore and near shore family fishing boats. They have been in business since 1985 in Fort Pierce.