

LIGHTNING STRIKE SPARKS FIRE IN BINGHAMTON

Pictures & Story by Nicholas Griswold

At 11:45 hours on the morning of July 7, 2012, Broome County Communications dispatched the City of Binghamton Fire Department to a possible building fire at the intersection of Vestal and Conklin Avenue on the city's south side. Responding units were advised that callers were stating the building at 1159 Vestal Avenue had been struck by lightning and that smoke and sparks could be seen coming from the building. First arriving companies found fire showing from a small tower portion of the building that stuck up above the roof line of the rest of the building.

Firefighters from Squad 21 and Tower 21 threw ladders and stretched a handline to the roof. Visible fire was extinguished within a couple of minutes of arrival from the exterior before crews entered the building to check for

extension and begin overhaul. Extensive overhaul operations were conducted completely removing the metal siding from the tower section of the building.

Binghamton Police, Superior Ambulance, and the Binghamton Fire Department Fire Marshal's office all assisted at the scene. The fire started during a substantial thunderstorm with a significant amount of cloud to ground lightning. All companies were cleaned up and cleared from the scene within a couple hours.



Crews work to stretch a line to the roof.



Firefighters stretch a line to the roof.



Fire is visible just before firefighters on the roof extinguish it



Firefighters extinguish the fire from the roof.



Firefighters continue to spray down the tower area.