

Torah Scroll Saved From Burning Synagogue

(New York -WABC, February 11, 2005) — They rush in, as we rush out. Our bravest do it daily to save life and limb, but today in Brooklyn, the FDNY's rescue, was of religious history. A Torah at a Temporary synagogue in Borough Park.

That's where we find Eyewitness News reporter Marcus Solis, with the rest of the story.

The three alarm fire is now under control, but there's still some emergency personnel on the stretch of Borough Park that is shut down - 13th Avenue - a very busy stretch.

The fire started in a second floor apartment that is above a row of stores. On the floor a temporary synagogue was set up and there was concern that a Torah would be damaged. A Fire Marshall went into the burning building with no fire equipment and retrieved the Torah. The scrolls came out intact, much to the relief of those gathered here.

Henry Rosenbaum, Borough Park Resident: "I saw that the Torah scroll was undamaged - it was not even wet, in perfect condition. It was like a small celebration out here on the street. Everybody was happy and thanking God."

And especially thanking Fire Marshall John McCarthy, who deferred credit, saying the firefighters did a great job bringing the fire under control.

There were no injuries and the cause is still under investigation.

The FDNY says the fire broke out at 4605 13th Avenue at 46th Street just after 10:00 a.m. and went to three alarms within about 20 minutes.

Some 33 pieces of apparatus and about 140 firefighters were on the scene.

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