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PAUL NAULT

Goffstown firefighters pour water on a collapsed section of a building on Factory Street that burned at about 3 a.m. yesterday.

# Goffstown fire 'suspicious'

◆ **Big blaze:** Warehouse on the Piscataquog destroyed in pre-dawn hours.

By **SCOTT DOLAN**  
Union Leader Correspondent

**GOFFSTOWN** — Fire investigators said an early morning blaze that destroyed a warehouse building near the Goffstown Village riverfront

yesterday was suspicious, but said it was too early to decide whether it was touched off by accident or by arson.

The fire, reported at 3:23 a.m., destroyed a two-story wooden warehouse at 15 Factory St., adjacent to Goffstown's landmark brick mill building now being eyed for redevelopment.

Fire Investigator Christopher

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## Goffstown

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Wyman of the state Fire Marshal's office spoke with reporters shortly before dusk yesterday as firefighters continued to poke through the burnt hulk of the roughly 30-foot by 70-foot building, looking for hotspots.

"We still have a number of people we need to speak with," Wyman said. "We haven't made an official ruling at this point. That's why we're calling it suspicious."

Wyman said police have already canvassed the downtown neighborhood around the warehouse near the Piscataquog River, but are continuing to interview potential witnesses who may have noticed something or someone before the fire started.

He said the fire apparently started in the back loading dock area, but the cause is still undetermined.

Goffstown Fire Chief Frank Carpentino said no one was injured as a result of the fire and none of the four tenants who used the warehouse space, primarily for storage, were present when it started.

Carpentino said about 60 firefighters helped battle the two-alarm fire, which consumed the building and caused the ceiling to collapse and a partial

floor collapse from the second into the first floor.

"The building was totally destroyed," he said. "There was a potential that this could have spread to the adjacent building or the woods."

The fire chief said battling the blaze was "labor intensive" and took about two hours, as firefighters worked first with large water lines from a hydrant, to contain the fire from spreading, and then with smaller hoses to get inside the burning warehouse.

John Janigan, a stockholder of Janigan Associates, which owns the warehouse, was also at the scene yesterday afternoon speaking with firefighters and looking over the wreck and debris of his building.

Janigan said he had plans with developer Elmer Pease to tear down the warehouse as part of a waterfront building project at the brick mill building, but that plans are currently pending before town boards, and face opposition from abutters.

Goffstown firefighters and police were assisted by departments from Manchester, New Boston, Dunbarton and Bedford. The Red Cross and St. Lawrence Church each sent a vehicle.