

Room Fire Perils Table Factory

APR 26 1954

Firemen Check Flames Spreading to Main Plant

Sparks from a welder's torch set off grease in an engine room pit at the Maddox Table Company at 11:15 A.M. today, gutting the engine room and sending smoke throughout the building.

Three city firemen were burned by hot tar at the blaze.

Fire Chief Charles R. Dorman said the flywheel, 10 feet in diameter, was recessed in a pit in the engine room. Although water was put in the pit as a precaution, grease on top of the pit pool ignited, setting fire to the 40-foot fly-belt, engulfing the engine room in flames almost immediately.

The fire broke through the skylight, and shot up south and west walls of the building. All fire equipment in the city and offshift men were called in.

Firemen put a water line through the second floor and had the fire under control within 15 minutes after arriving at the scene.

Firemen Chet Hansen received face burns when he looked up to the roof of the engine room. Captain Charles Eggleston and Captain Robert Morton received hand burns.

Firemen of Company 2 were standing by at Empire Case Goods, Foote Avenue, as a precautionary measure, while a welder was working cutting pipe at the plant. They went to the nearby Maddox fire within a matter of minutes.

Firemen ran up both aerial ladders to the fourth floor of the building, investigating smoke pouring intermittently from windows on the third and fourth floors. Water stood in two and three-foot pools in parts of the building and poured down through walls and floors, causing indoor showers.

Firemen laid salvage covers at the scene to protect lumber and equipment.

The company manufactures tables, desks and occasional pieces.

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the engine
C. Staffoto