

Drain leak caused PARLEC fire

A drain line accidentally knocked open has been blamed for a blaze Thursday which damaged the PARLEC Inc. building on Perinton Parkway.

Fairport Fire Chief Peter Kenney said Monday that mineral oil containing a rust inhibitor leaked from a dip tank used to coat tools and pooled on the floor of the structure. Heat from a nearby burner caused the oil to flare up.

Fairport and East Rochester fire fighters brought the fire under control in about half an hour, Kenney said. Venting the building of hazardous smoke and fumes and clean up at the scene took about three hours.

Two employees reportedly escaped injury after discovering the fire around 7:50 p.m. according to PARLEC Vice President Tom McAvoy.

PARLEC manufactures tools for computer-controlled machines and uses a variety of chemicals in production. When the blaze was first reported, fire personnel responded to what was believed to be a chemical fire. McAvoy said initial reports that nickel nitrate and Unikleen, an alkaline and a corrosive respectively, were involved in the incident were inaccurate. Kenney confirmed tanks of the chemicals were near the blaze but were not involved.

McAvoy said insurance adjusters are still examining the building and had not arrived at an estimate on how much damage the structure suffered. The company is currently undergoing checks on all equipment and is in partial operation.

According to Monroe County Fire Investigator Fred Keller, the building suffered damage to its aluminum walls and roof. He also said that one structural I-beam appeared severely warped and would probably have to be replaced.

The fire began around a tool coating set-up consisting of six dipping tanks. The third tank in the row is heated with a gas jet of an estimated 80 to 290 degrees. The final tank in the process leaked its contents under the set-up. Keller said the "flash point" or ignition temperature of the oil is about 105 degrees.

Some 60 fire personnel responded to the scene with Egypt and Penfield fire departments filling in at Fairport stations.

Normally, a fire call on a Thursday evening would have disrupted drill night for Fairport Fire Department, Kenney said. Instead, the call came in during a Monroe County Firemen's Association dinner meeting at the fire hall. About a dozen Fairport personnel were in attendance.

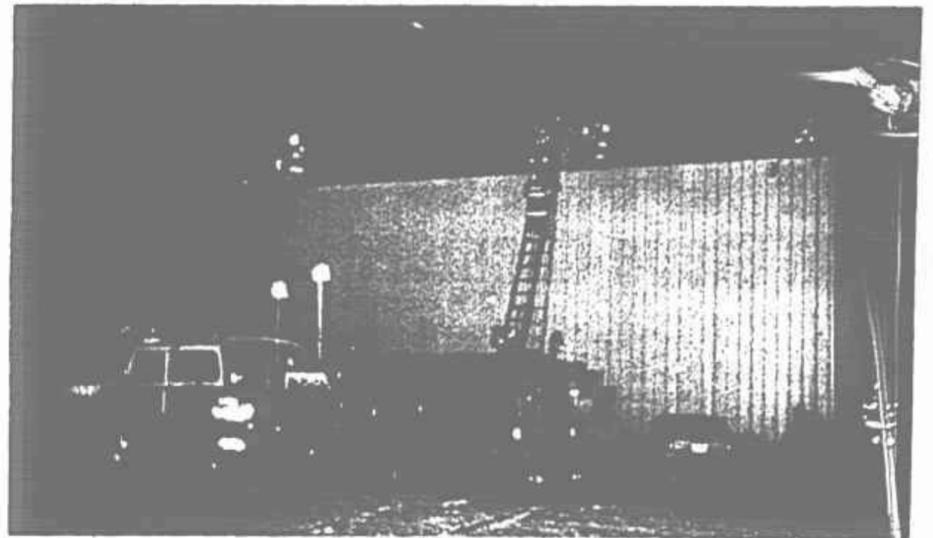
Perkins is an avionics test station and components specialist at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, with the 1st Component Repair Squadron. He is a 1984 graduate of Groton Junior and Senior High School.

Service

Jeffrey F. Perkins, son of Francis J. Perkins of 12 Larkspur Lane, Fairport, and Doris D. Perkins of 8C Sevana Park, Ithaca, has been promoted in the U.S. Air Force to the rank of senior airman.

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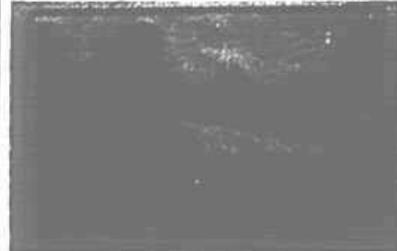


FAIRPORT FIREFIGHTERS MONITOR building access to the PARLEC building on Perinton Parkway last Thursday during a mineral oil fire which required opening up the roof to vent potentially hazardous smoke.

Hank Kula

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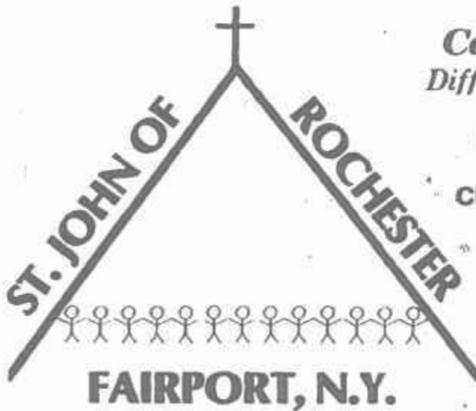
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