



Contact:  
Denise Walsh  
T: 610-635-3531  
M: 484-614-3548  
dwalsh@lowerprovidence.org

## ***IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

### **Valley Forge Beef and Ale Heavily Damaged by Fire**

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP** (*February 16, 2013*) – The Valley Forge Beef and Ale on South Trooper Road in Lower Providence Township sustained heavy damage in a blaze that broke out Saturday afternoon. Over 100 firefighters responded to the fire.

At 12:27 p.m., officials received a 9-1-1 call of a building fire at the site, located at 827 South Trooper Road. Lower Providence Fire Chief Bryan McFarland arrived at the scene to find the first floor of the building filled with smoke.

Initially, the fire was in the basement where firefighters encountered difficulty ventilating the area. Additions and voids in the structure, which was originally a three-story residence, further complicated efforts to track the path of the blaze.

The fire eventually made its way from the basement through voids in the walls to the third floor and out the roof of the building. It took four hours to bring the blaze under control. The cause is undetermined.

There were 18 customers and 5 employees in the building when the fire broke out. There were no injuries. Prior to the fire, employees heard an explosion in the basement and felt the first floor rock. An employee found black smoke and fire in the basement. After initial attempts to put out the fire with a fire extinguisher were unsuccessful, the 9-1-1 call was placed.

At approximately 6:30 p.m. crews were still on the scene undertaking efforts to use foam under the first floor and in the basement. Trooper Road remained closed.

Responding to the scene were Lower Providence Fire Company, Collegetown Fire Company, Norriton Fire Company, Berwyn Fire Company, Skippack Fire Company, Jefferson Fire Company, and Limerick Fire Company. Also on the scene was North Penn Goodwill; Lower Providence Ambulance and Plymouth Ambulance were on stand-by.

According to Lower Providence Township Fire Marshal Charles DeFrancesco, an investigation will be initiated on Monday with the assistance of Lower Providence Township Police, PA State Police and the Montgomery County Detective Bureau.