

HANOVER FIRE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

March 9, 2018

16:00 Hours.

At 11:47 hrs. Hanover Deputy Fire Chief Jason Cavallaro, while traveling on Washington St. (Route 53), noticed smoke coming from the top of the Town of Hanover's wind turbine located at 40 Pond St. A first alarm assignment (Engine 7, Engine 4, Engine 3, Tower 1 and Ambulance 1 and C-1) was dispatched. Deputy Chief Cavallaro determined that the Pond Street water treatment plant, located on the site, had been experiencing electrical power surges and was operating on stand-by generator. Water department personnel reported that an odor of electrical smoke inside the treatment plant. Deputy Cavallaro evacuated the employees from the Water Treatment Plant.

The safety controls on the wind turbine had already stopped the blades from spinning. The generator was shut down and power was disconnected to the plant. The power from the turbine into the treatment plant was also disconnected.

Once the power was secured to the turbine the smoke began to dissipate.

Town of Hanover Electrical Inspector William Laider, National Grid and Aeronautica Windpower representatives responded to the scene and provided assistance.

Entry was made into the base of the tower where firefighters found a large electrical panel that had been destroyed by fire. The panel was still smoldering and a fire extinguisher was used to put out the remaining fire. The 176 foot tall tower had acted as a chimney, venting the smoke thru the generator at the top.

The cause of the fire is believed to be due to a mechanical malfunction and is currently under investigation.

Electricians are currently on scene working to restore power to the Water Treatment Plant.

Jeffrey Blanchard, Fire Chief