




















# Metro

		SECTIONS	 MY SAVED	
NEWS		METRO		
ARTS		BUSINESS		
SPORTS		OPINION		
LIFESTYLE		MAGAZINE		
TODAY'S PAPER				
LOTTERY		OBITUARIES		
NAMES		GLOBE NORTH		
GLOBE SOUTH		GLOBE WEST		
INVESTIGATIONS				

Metro

# Remains of Brighton businesses destroyed by fire are demolished

By **Matt Rocheleau** | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT FEBRUARY 14, 2012

 ARTICLE  COMMENTS

 PRINT  REPRINTS  E-MAIL  SHARE

 Recommend  +1  0

Demolition crews yesterday finished leveling the charred remains of a gas-fueled fire that destroyed four Brighton businesses early Sunday, leaving doubts about pinpointing a cause.

Throughout the morning, firefighters monitored the debris and extinguished several spots where flames had reappeared as rubble was hauled away.

The cause of the extraordinarily smoky blaze in a one-story brick building at the corner of Chestnut Hill Avenue and Embassy Road remains under investigation but may never be known, officials said. The fire was fed by a gas line connected to the building, which had to be razed to allow National Grid workers to shut off the line.

“I don’t know how much [investigators] are going to be able to come up with, because it’s all pretty much gone,” said Boston Fire Department spokesman Steve MacDonald.

The fire caused \$4 million in damage, he said.

Five firefighters were treated for injuries received fighting the four-alarm blaze in cold, windy conditions over 15 hours. Two hurt their backs after slipping and falling on ice, one had debris in his eye, one suffered a shoulder injury, and another injured his knee, MacDonald said.

The fire is believed to have started inside the pizza restaurant Bocca Buona and spread to the other businesses in the strip: Ora Catering, Village Laundry, and S&K Janitorial Supplies.

MacDonald said firefighters - about 120 responded - used millions of gallons of water, much of which quickly turned to ice on one of this winter’s few frigid days so far. The mercury read 14 degrees when crews responded. It never climbed above the high 20s.

At times, the water pressure waned and pump trucks had to connect to hydrants on side streets.



PAT GREENHOUSE/GLOBE STAFF

**Little was left yesterday of four businesses at Chestnut Hill Avenue and Embassy Road in Brighton that were hit by a fire early Sunday. Officials say pinpointing a cause will be difficult.**

“Obviously, the pressure drops when you’re tapping into multiple hydrants,” MacDonald said. “What we had to do was spread it out more.”

But the temporarily low water pressure “didn’t affect the end result,” he said.



Officials have received no reports of water damage to nearby property, he said. At one point, a dump truck poured sand alongside a neighboring two-story apartment building to prevent water used to fight the fire from flooding the residence.

Cleanup continued yesterday evening, as the site remained fenced off and partly crusted in ice. The city said it is assisting the property’s owner, the four businesses, and their employees.

“It’s a terrible loss to the community and a shame to see businesses destroyed and jobs lost,” Mayor Thomas M. Menino said in a statement. “We will work collaboratively to do everything we can to help those involved. We want to get these folks back on their feet, so that they can reopen their businesses.”

*Matt Rocheleau can be reached at [mjrochele@gmail.com](mailto:mjrochele@gmail.com).*

 PRINT  REPRINTS  E-MAIL  SHARE ▾

 Recommend  0


 +1  0

 ARTICLE  COMMENTS

## Learn more

[SITE FEATURES](#) [SUBSCRIBE](#) [BOSTON GLOBE INSIDERS](#) [REFER A FRIEND](#) [EPAPER EDITION](#)

### MY ACCOUNT

[LOGOUT](#)  
 [MY SAVED LIST](#)  
[MANAGE HOME DELIVERY](#)

### SOCIAL

[FACEBOOK](#)  
[TWITTER](#)  
[GOOGLE+](#)

### CONTACT

[HELP](#)  
[FAQS](#)  
[GLOBE NEWSROOM](#)  
[ADVERTISE](#)

### MORE

[ARCHIVES](#)  
[PRIVACY POLICY](#)  
[TERMS OF SERVICE](#)  
[TERMS OF PURCHASE](#)  
[WORK HERE](#)

