Blaze Starts on the 11th

A three-alarm fire broke out in the 11th-floor offices of the B. F. Goodrich Company in the north tower of the World Trade Center last night, and spread through an inner-service core to the ninth and 14th floors.

"It was like fighting a blow torch," Mr. Goodrich, Chief engineer of the building, told National Broadcasting Corporation. Harold Kull of Engine Co. 6, who said all of his men "got their necks and ears burned" trying to get into the 11th floor hall from the stairwell. None of the firemen were seriously injured.

Mainly on One Floor

The fire is believed to have started in a conference room on the 11th floor and spread to the 14th floor and the 15th floor, according to Deputy Assistant Fire Chief William Bush. The damage to the service core was apparently confined to electrical wiring and water mains.

The building is equipped with a fire sprinkler system. The sprinkler system on the 11th floor may have helped to limit the fire.

To reach the fire, the men boarded a ladder, which had been hoisted to the 11th floor, attached hoses to standpipes in stairwells on the 10th floor and then advanced on the flames. Flames could be seen pouring out of 11th-floor windows on the east side of the building.

Fifty people, mostly maintenance men, were evacuated. New York City fire commissioner Edward J. O'Hagan, said private fire code for office towers requires that floors lacking sprinkler systems be protected by means of smoke detection systems. He said that if the fire had entered the smoke detection system, the sprinklers would have been activated and the smoke would have been extinguished.

Nature of the Fire

The fire was contained to two floors, the 11th and 12th, and did not spread to the 14th floor. The fire was concentrated on the 11th floor and the damage was limited to the 11th floor.

The elevator system was functional and the building was accessible to emergency personnel. The elevator system was operational and emergency personnel were able to use the elevators to access the 11th floor.

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