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“T&L Fire”

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A fire burned a building last Wednesday, causing an estimated damage of $1.2 million to the building and its contents, according to the Fire Department.

The commercial building that burned was T&L Electronics, 4404 U.S. Highway 90.

The night watchman for the company, Fernando Lopez, 27, reported the fire. “I was making my routine rounds when I saw it was unusually hot in the rear of the building,” Lopez said. “Then I turned the corner and saw flames shooting out from a room for the electrical circuit breakers, the water heaters and that type of stuff. By the time I got to the phone, the whole back part of the building was on fire. I didn’t know a fire could spread that fast.”

The fire started at 9:23 p.m. The first units arrived at 9:27 p.m. A second alarm was issued at 9:42 p.m. The fire was contained at 10:56 p.m.

The Fire Department used eight vehicles and 45 men to battle the fire. Low water pressure in the area hampered firefighters’ efforts. New water mains are scheduled to be installed in this older area of the city in early February.

The probable cause was an electrical short in the main building power supply, according to the fire marshal, Capt. Anne Gonzalez.

Fire Lt. Stephen Gorman, public information officer, reports that the owner of the business, Georges Popandreau, is on vacation in Florida. Police reached him by phone when he said the building and contents are fully insured. He will return to town tomorrow, Thursday, to begin making arrangements for relocating the business and restocking the lost inventory.

**End**