

Fire stifles classes at Ascension

Ascension Collegiate remained closed for most of last week due to a fire which broke out at the Bay Roberts high school Monday evening, March 15.

"We got the call at 6:14 p.m. from some people who were using the gym," said Fire Chief Clarence Russell of the Bay Roberts Volunteer Fire Department.

Chief Russell said the fire was caused by a shortage in the battery back-up system for the building's emergency lighting.

"We went in and just used the fire extinguisher to put it out," Russell told the *Compass* last Wednesday. "Then we cleared all the floors of smoke using an exhaust fan."

He said damages were estimated at about \$15,000.

After cleanup and repair, the lighting equipment and fire alarm systems had to be tested before students were permitted to return to school.

"That's not likely to happen til at least Friday," Chief Russell predicted.



Bay Roberts Volunteer Fire Department photo

EASY OUT - A short in this battery back-up system for the building's emergency lighting was the cause of a fire at Ascension Collegiate March 15. Members of the Bay Roberts Volunteer Fire Department were able to extinguish the blaze with a fire extinguisher.