



Upper Milford and Emmaus firefighters were called Jan. 18 afternoon to fight a fire that gutted a garage along Vera Cruz Rd.

PRESS PHOTOS BY JIM MARSH

Quick action saves homes in Vera Cruz garage fire

By JIM MARSH
Press writer

Quick action by firefighters saved two homes adjacent to a raging garage fire Jan. 18 in Vera Cruz.

Upper Milford Fire Chief George DeVault, who was first on the scene at 3122 Vera Cruz Road, found a two-car garage with flames "fully involved" in the structure. DeVault asked the Lehigh County 911 Center to dispatch units from Emmaus to aid at the scene.

The fire was so advanced and hot that flames melted siding on the adjacent home of Barry Laube, the owner of the garage, and on a neighboring home.

"That fire really wanted to get into those two homes," DeVault said. He credited the quick action of firefighters for keeping the fire from spreading.

Emmaus Fire Department Lieutenant Dave Ernst climbed to the top of an



Emmaus Fire Department Lieutenant Dave Ernst uses an infrared camera to check for fire behind melted siding at a Vera Cruz home where fire last week destroyed a garage.

enclosed porch to assure that there was no fire behind melted siding on the second floor of Laube's home.

First on the scene were units from the Vera Cruz and Old Zionsville stations, with Emmaus firefighters arriving shortly thereafter. The first call to the 911 Center came in shortly after 1

p.m.

DeVault said that the fire was of undetermined origin and that an investigation would be ongoing with a Pennsylvania State Police Fire Marshall.

No one was at home in the Laube household when the fire started.