



Firefighters from Brighton Fire Rescue District, Fort Lupton and South Adams battle the blaze that engulfed a building housing several businesses on North Main Street on Friday. Below, Fire Chief Mark Bodane and Police Commander Frank Acosta confer three hours after the firefighters arrived, about firefighting efforts and earlier evacuations. Hot spots remained after 10 p.m. *Daily Post photo*



Fire destroys Main St. businesses

Fire, believed to have ignited in an auto body shop, destroyed it and several other businesses in a building on North Main Street near Longspeak Street.

Firefighters from six departments, including all five Brighton stations, were involved for more than four hours fighting the blaze in the 300 block of North Main Street, first reported about 3:45 p.m., according to Brighton Fire Rescue District Public Information Officer Natalie Ridderbos.

No one was injured, but one person escaped on his own after being trapped in the burning building, Ridderbos said.

Chief Mark Bodane, who directed crews in one of four firefighting sectors, said the intense heat and

concerns with flammable chemicals inside the building – that began exploding after firefighters arrived – forced crews to attack the fire from the exterior. Those explosions continued three hours later, causing new flames and black plumes of smoke. Bodane said about 40 firefighters assisted Brighton Fire.

Among the businesses destroyed were the body shop and adjacent tire store, and Carniceria Jerez market, Las Palomas Miselaneos, a beauty parlor and a glass shop.

Brighton Police Commander Frank Acosta said 12-15 homes and businesses in the immediate area were evacuated as flames spread and the roof collapsed.