



MEDIA RELEASE
From the
**YORK COUNTY DEPARTMENT
OF FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY**

January 18, 2026

For Immediate Release

Quick Response Stops Cooler Fire at York County Food Lion

A routine Sunday afternoon at the grocery store took an unexpected turn when a small fire broke out in a refrigerated cooler at the back of the Food Lion in the 5200 block of George Washington Memorial Highway (Route 17). Thanks to the quick actions of store employees and the presence of York County Fire Chief Allen W. Baldwin, the fire was extinguished within minutes and store operations soon returned to normal.

Fire and Life Safety personnel were dispatched to the scene at approximately 1:15 p.m. In a case of excellent timing, Chief Baldwin was shopping in the store at the time of the incident. Upon recognizing the situation, Chief Baldwin assumed command and directed the initial response until fire crews arrived.

First responders confirmed the fire was fully extinguished and contained to the cooler unit. No injuries were reported and damage was limited to the cooler. Fire and Life Safety crews ventilated the building, and the employees and customers were allowed back inside.

“This was excellent work by the store employees,” said Chief Baldwin. “Their quick response and immediate call to 9-1-1 may well have prevented the incident from becoming a serious situation. I encourage all businesses to have fire extinguishers available and to ensure employees are trained on how to respond in the event of a fire or other emergency.”

Questions may be directed to the York County Department of Fire and Life Safety at 757-890-3600.