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Mattress warehouse goes up in flames in Phnom Penh

Mao Chanvireak / Khmer Times /





Fire destroys a mattress warehouse in Phnom Penh's Por Senchey district yesterday. KT/Siv Channa

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A mattress warehouse was gutted when a fire ripped through the building at Kakap village, Kakap 2 commune in Por Senchey district yesterday.



The fire which broke out at about 9.30am saw huge plumes of thick smoke billowing from the warehouse with some 500 leather mattresses burning.

Phnom Penh Municipal police spokesman, Colonel San Sokseiha told Khmer Times the firemen took almost an hour to bring the raging flames under control without it spreading to neighbouring houses.

No one was injured in the incident. The owner of the warehouse was identified as Sok Saran. 39.

According to Col Sokseiha, the workers were working on one side of the warehouse when they smelled something burning and on checking saw smoke coming from another end of the building.

The workers, he said, immediately tried to put out the fire using the fire hoses at the warehouse while also alerting the relevant authorities and calling the fire department.

Within minutes firemen in 19 fire-engines from the Fire and Rescue Department arrived at the scene with 64 cubic metres of water followed by two more fire trucks from the Ministry of Interior with eight cubic metres of water and three more trucks of Brigade 70 with 24 cubic metres of water.

The Cambodia Brewery Company, Olympia and Borey Kdei Sangkum also despatched their fire trucks with water to help put out the fire.

Col Sokseiha said there have been many incidences of fires breaking out since early this year but major ones were just a handful with all of them being contained effectively and prevented from spreading to neighbouring buildings and houses.

"We need to be careful with the scorching heat this summer which can easily spark fires. People cannot afford to be negligent and they should also repair their old and faulty electrical wires and plugs," he added.

He said as per the directive of Phnom Penh police chief, Lieutenant General Sar Thet they were getting officials from the Fire and Rescue Department to create awareness on the importance of preventing fires by taking all the precautionary measures, be it in houses or on business

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premises.

He added greater emphasis and fire fighting training, including on how to use fire extinguishers and water hoses, are given to owners and staff of premises that are highly inflammable such as gas stations and factories that have inflammable materials and products.





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