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Quick-Thinking Worker Saves Grandfather and Two Children from House Fire in Maine

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A contractor working in Saco, Maine, is being praised for his bravery after he helped rescue a grandfather and two children from a house fire that broke out midday Tuesday. The incident occurred on Cleveland Street as high temperatures and humidity blanketed the area.

Tyler Johnson, identified by his employer Shamos Paving and Sealcoating of Windham, was sealing a nearby driveway when he spotted smoke and flames coming from a neighboring home. Without hesitation, Johnson ran into the burning structure and assisted in guiding the three occupants to safety.

The single-story residence, rented by a family from Vermont, quickly filled with smoke as the fire intensified. According to witnesses, including next-door neighbor Courtney Boudreau, the grandfather, his two grandchildren, and even the family dog made it out just in time.

“The smoke and the fire was so big and came on so quickly. They were all fortunate to make it out, and their dog, too,” Boudreau told reporters. She recalled hearing glass shatter from the intense heat as she returned from the store and saw the flames erupting.

Emergency services responded swiftly, but conditions proved challenging. With temperatures in the 90s and a heat advisory in place, the fire reached three alarms to ensure fire crews could rotate and recover in the extreme heat. “On a day like Tuesday, after 15 to 20 minutes, you’ve got to give them a good 20 minutes to a half-hour to cool down,” explained Saco Deputy Fire Chief Robert Martin.

Despite the chaos, the community expressed gratitude for Johnson’s actions. “Rarely do you go to work any day thinking you’re going to have to go into a burning building to help someone, and anyone who can do that with that kind of courage – without knowing who’s inside – deserves to be thanked,” said local resident Rick Towle.

The Maine State Fire Marshal’s Office is investigating the cause of the blaze. Meanwhile, the displaced family is receiving support from the American Red Cross. Johnson, who reportedly returned to work the following day, has been widely commended for his courageous response.