



July 2018

Update on Hale Library Fire and Restoration Efforts

The summary below, including links to additional information, provides an update on the progress to rehabilitate K-State's Hale Library and restore the data center and other business operations after the fire on May 22, 2018.

Summary of what happened:

Approximately 4 p.m. on May 22, the Manhattan Fire Department responded to a fire alarm at Hale Library. The fire started as contractors were repairing the roof over the original Farrell Library. Additional crews were called in as the fire was difficult to get to and crews were on scene throughout the night. The fire damage was limited to a portion of the roof of the original Farrell library and most of the building suffered extensive smoke and water damage. [View photos](#) taken by the Manhattan Fire Department.

Hale Library served as the main data center for the university's network, requiring staff to take down all network systems including the student, human resources and accounting systems to protect the data.

Read a [timeline of the events](#).

How the University responded:

In the true spirit of Family, K-State's faculty, staff and community members responded immediately and worked relentlessly to address the many challenges created by the fire. [Read a letter from university President Richard Myers](#) recognizing the many people who responded.

Belfor Property Restoration, a global leader in disaster recovery and property restoration, was hired and has been working diligently since May 24 on demo, drying and dehumidification, removal of books and furnishings, and cleaning and storing materials. View a [photo gallery](#) of their efforts.

On May 24, President Myers with university and library leadership, toured the facility to examine the extent of the damage and found standing water, damaged interior, and wet, soot-covered books and electronics. View a [photo gallery](#) showing how the library looked that day.

Information Technology Services staff worked heroically to solve the challenges created by the fire to the university's network. Internet connectivity and webmail were restored by May 24. Human Resources Information System was prioritized and restored as quickly as possible so payroll was processed and most employees received their June 1 paychecks on time. The student (KSIS) and accounting (FIS) systems were operational by June 4, first day of summer school.

Students were provided with alternate web links and ways to enroll in intersession and summer courses in an attempt to minimize the effect on learning.

Where the University is now:

The University welcomed new students to campus for Orientation and Enrollment throughout June. Summer school is progressing as normal and many student groups continue to enjoy their summer events on campus.

Demolition in the library building is approximately 85 percent complete. Many of the 1.8 million books have been removed from the library with many more yet to go. Wet books have been moved to freezers in Ft. Worth, Texas, where they will undergo a drying process. Dry books are being cleaned in K-State's executive court building with clean books stored in our library annex near the Manhattan Regional Airport. Additional storage locations are being explored.

The electronic inventory has been evaluated. Items not salvageable will be destroyed. All IT systems are operational and the data center is now running on normal power with a generator in standby mode. Information Technology leadership, in conjunction with Risk Management, are making plans for business continuity for the future.

Hale Library faculty and staff continue to do their best to serve students, researchers and other faculty from their temporary locations. The University of Kansas has been helpful with data recovery and also by extending borrowing privileges to K-State students. [See the library's FAQ.](#)

The first insurance payment of \$12 million has been received allowing the university to make an advance payment to Belfor and have some cash for immediate needs. There is much yet to be determined and the University does not have estimates on total damage or timelines. The assessments are expected to be completed within the next 45 to 60 days and then planning for restoration will continue.

The entire K-State community is working together to restore Hale Library - located in the heart of campus - to be a great library with future generations in mind.



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