



Johnson County Fire Protection District

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NEWS RELEASE – Wednesday, October 14, 2026

Historic Mt. Zion Christian Church Destroyed by Fire

JOHNSON COUNTY, MO – The Mt. Zion Christian Church, located at 951 NE NN Highway in northeastern Johnson County, was destroyed by fire early Wednesday morning. The church has served its community since 1840.

The Johnson County Fire Protection District was notified at 4:19 a.m. by a passerby who reported the church was fully engulfed in flames. Firefighters arrived to find the structure heavily involved in fire. The building was a complete loss. No injuries were reported.

Four Johnson County Fire Protection District stations responded to the scene, along with mutual aid from the West Central Fire Protection District. Due to the rural location, crews transported water to the scene to support firefighting operations.

The current church structure was built in 1896, with an addition completed in 2008. Its destruction marks the loss of a historic building that has been part of the community for generations.

“Anytime a fire destroys a building with this much history, the loss extends beyond the structure itself,” said Captain Joe Jennings, public information officer for the Johnson County Fire Protection District. “For generations, this church has been a place where people gathered, built relationships and marked important moments in their lives. We recognize what a difficult morning this is for the congregation and the surrounding community.”

The Missouri State Fire Marshal is investigating the cause of the fire.

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For more information contact:

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