

## Eastern Market: Tremendous Loss

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Monday, 30 April 2007  
Last Updated Thursday, 23 July 2009

At around 1:45 am this morning, Councilmember Wells got the call that nearly 160 firefighters were battling a three-alarm blaze at Eastern Market. Despite their brave and fast work, Eastern Market has been seriously damaged.

Tommy has been on the scene most of the morning, talking with vendors and merchants, city officials, and people stopping by to pay their respects to the historic landmark.

As of this morning, over 50 percent of the building has been significantly damaged. The South Hall has suffered serious fire, water and smoke damage and will have to be rebuilt. The North Hall has been damaged, but it is unclear at this point how much structural damage has occurred.

"It's a tremendous loss for our community and I am heartbroken." Tommy commented. "I am committed that we will rebuild Eastern Market. In the days to follow, I will be putting together a working group with the Mayor and hosting a community meeting at Hine Jr. High to talk about timelines and options. Right now, we have an immediate challenge to help our small businesses and vendors find a way to stay open and survive until the Market is rebuilt."

We will provide updates as we get them, and we encourage you to leave comments with your thoughts, memories and feelings about Eastern Market.

UPDATE [12:47]: Tommy has scheduled a meeting with Eastern Market vendors at 3:00 pm today. We will be talking with them about next steps and finding ways to keep them open for business. Also, a fund is being set up to take charitable donations to provide financial assistance to the vendors. Information about this fund (and links) will be set up shortly.

UPDATE [2:31 pm]: Tommy has worked with the Capitol Hill Community Foundation to have a fund created to help displaced Eastern Market vendors. They will be creating a dedicated website very soon, but in the meantime, you can contribute to the 501(c)3 fund at the following link: [Click Here](#). Be sure to include the designation for your contribution "Eastern Market: Keep It Going."