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POOL –

Mayor de Blasio visited the site of the Williamsburg warehouse seven-alarm fire on Thursday to thank firefighters for their hard work battling the fire. Parts of the complex, which is right next to the East River on North 11th Street, are still smoldering, but that couldn't be seen on the tour.

De Blasio arrived at CitiStorage in an FDNY jacket just after 10 a.m. Dozens of firefighters were working, including units from as far away as Harlem and the East Village.

“I just want to express my appreciation and I know people all over the city feel the same way. I hope you guys know there's a very deep kind of appreciation for the work you do. I don't know if people always stop you enough to say thank you, but everyone of us feels it,” he told about 20 firefighters who had gathered around.

He said he felt “blessed” to have a firehouse one-block away from his home in Park Slope, because it gave him such a sense of “security.”

“I know this is truly, the few, the proud, the brave. This is not easy stuff, and I really admire the fortitude,” he told them.

He spoke to the firefighters in front of the charred remains of the building, which looked like the whole front side had been ripped off. Next to that building is a second, smaller building that is completely covered over in ice, and the ground in front of both buildings is completely iced over.

Although it wasn't as cold as it was Saturday when the blaze started, it was very windy and cold while de Blasio spoke to the firefighters. At one point, the mayor said, “Sorry to make you stand in the freezing cold for a moment.”

He asked if the fire was seven alarms.

Told it was, he said, “I hope you don't meet many more of those seven alarms ... I can imagine what kind of challenge it is when you're in the middle of it. Thank God everyone came out safely. I want to thank you all for that. I know you watch each other's back ... Job well done everyone.”

Then de Blasio got a briefing on the site from FDNY Commissioner Daniel Nigro and Chief of Department James Leonard. Leonard pointed out that Ladder 122 – which is the firehouse de Blasio said made him feel secure in his Brooklyn home – was there. De Blasio went and shook those guys hands and thanked them.

The site is 1000 feet by 300 feet and includes three buildings with separate addresses, according to officials on the scene. It houses records for the Health Department, ACS, and Health and Hospitals.