A fire Tuesday morning at the Equine Reproduction Laboratory at the CSU Foothills Campus gutted the building, causing up to $12 million in damage.

The Poudre Fire Authority responded to a report of a fire in the lab at 1 a.m. Tuesday, and when firefighters arrived, flames 20 feet high were shooting out of the roof, said PFA spokesman Patrick Love.

There were no injuries to animals or humans, but Equine Reproduction Laboratory staff and faculty were there to evacuate horses from nearby buildings as a precaution, he said.

The cause and origin of the blaze, which took 28 firefighters to control, remains under investigation, Love said.

"It was a challenge because we had to attack it from the exterior because there were no immediate life safety issues and there was so much fire in the roof area," he said. "It would not have been wise to put firefighters in danger."

He said the lab's roof collapsed while firefighters were working on the blaze.

Love said early Tuesday that the building may be a total loss.

CSU spokeswoman Dell Rae Moellenberg said it's unclear what impact the blaze will have on the work conducted at the lab, which employed between 12 and 15 staff and faculty.

For the time being, however, day-to-day work at the lab will be relocated.

"Impact will be minimal to the daily activities, and CSU will work to minimize impact on employee activities," she said. "The long-term impact on research data is yet to be determined."

Between 20 and 30 horses were moved out of the area during blaze to prevent injury from smoke, she said. All were owned by clients and were not in danger,
she said.