



Palatine Fire Department

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Press Release

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BUILDING COLLAPSE

749 W. Palatine Rd, Palatine, IL

July 23, 2016

23:26 hours

On Saturday, July 23, 2016 at 11:26 p.m. the Palatine Fire Department responded to check on possible structural damage at 749 W. Palatine Rd. in Palatine. The first Palatine Fire Department crew arrived on the scene at 11:32 p.m. and reported a significant collapse of the roof and a wall of a commercial building. The first fire unit requested the Battalion Chief and an engine company to also respond to the scene, as well as NICOR for an apparent gas leak due to the collapse. The collapse occurred in a vacant unit in the strip mall, but a convenience store on the other end of the structure was still occupied. Due to a concern for secondary collapse due to the instability of the structure, firefighters evacuated the building and established a collapse zone. ComEd was also requested to the scene as the electrical service to the building was damaged and prevented access to the gas shut-off valve. The Village of Palatine Building Department also responded to assess the structure. Fire crews monitored gas levels in nearby businesses throughout the incident until NICOR was able to secure the gas service to the building. There were no injuries from the incident, but the building remains cordoned off and will not be able to be occupied until the structure is completely evaluated and made safe.

One engine company and one tower ladder truck responded to the scene along with one command officer. It is believed that heavy rains led to an accumulation of water on the roof, overloading the structural members, leading to the collapse.

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