



Palatine Fire Department

Chief Scott Andersen
39 E. Colfax Street • Palatine, IL 60067-5297

Phone: (847) 202-6340
Fax: (847) 202-6320

Press Release

**CONTACT: Battalion Chief Anthony Lavacchi
847.202.6328**

**Deputy Chief Patrick Gratianna
847.202.6342**

STRUCTURE FIRE

**1580 W. North Street. Palatine, IL
Incident # 7225
December 10, 2015
20:16 hours**

On Thursday, December 10, 2015 at 8:16 p.m., the Palatine Fire Department was called to a report of a fire, at 1580 W. North Street in Palatine. The first Palatine Fire Department crews arrived on the scene at 8:22 p.m. and reported a small fire on the exterior of the building. The first fire companies found electrical wires burning next to the home with fire extending to the front of the house. Firefighters used a pressurized water extinguisher to extinguish the fire. Other firefighters removed portions of the exterior siding to expose a fire that was burning inside the wall of the home. The remaining fire was quickly extinguished and damage was limited to a small area of the home. No civilians or firefighters were injured in the fire. Damage estimates are not available at the time of this release.

Palatine Fire Department investigators were on the scene and determined the cause of the fire to be accidental in nature. The point of origin was located on the exterior of the home where a timer and extension cords were plugged in to a stake style 4-way outlet extension for holiday lighting on the exterior of the home.

The Palatine Fire Department is currently participating in the annual "Keep the Wreath Red" holiday safety program. This public safety campaign was started in the mid 1950's to increase fire safety awareness during the holidays. As part of this program all Palatine Fire Department stations are decorated with large wreaths that only contain red lights. Whenever there is a holiday related fire we will exchange a red bulb on each wreath with a white bulb. The Palatine Fire Department has exchanged one red light with one white light on each of its five wreaths in recognition of this holiday related fire. We hope that as you pass the wreaths you will consider potential fire safety problems in and around your home and take the time to correct them. Some safety considerations include;

- Check all holiday lighting for wear or damaged wiring and replace as needed.
- Use indoor/outdoor lighting and extension cords where they are intended.
- Do not run lighting or extension cords through windows, doors or across sidewalks.
- Do not overload electrical cords. If it is hot, it is overloaded!
- Turn off all holiday lighting prior to leaving or going to bed.
- Make sure smoke detectors are tested and in good working order with fresh batteries.

The Palatine Fire Department wishes everyone a safe and joyous holiday season.

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