



Palatine Fire Department

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Press Release

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STRUCTURE FIRE

961 W. Wood St, Palatine, IL
Incident # 5119
August 23, 2014
14:09 hours

On Saturday, August 23 at 2:09 p.m., the Palatine Fire Department was called to a report of a house fire at 961 W. Wood St. in Palatine. The first Palatine Fire Department crews arrived on the scene at 2:13 p.m. and reported smoke and fire showing from the roof of the 2-story single family home. The first fire companies pulled a hose line and aggressively attacked the fire from the exterior, while other firefighters stretched a supply line to a fire hydrant and pulled two hose lines into the building for interior attack of the fire that was determined to be in the attic. Firefighters had to open the ceiling of the second floor to expose the fire for extinguishment. The fire was declared under control at 2:25 p.m. Firefighters continued to ventilate smoke and gases and perform extensive salvage and overhaul activities for some time after that.

No civilians or firefighters were injured in the fire, which left the home uninhabitable. Damage is initially estimated at \$80,000, and a preliminary investigation by Palatine Fire Department investigators indicates that the fire was caused by a lightning strike to the roof.

The fire was fought by 21 firefighters, staffing three engines, two ladder trucks, one rescue squad and two ambulances which responded to the scene along with a command officer and a Fire Investigator. Units from the Hoffman Estates Fire Department responded to the scene under a mutual aid agreement, but were returned upon their arrival as the fire was quickly under control. Palatine Police officers assisted at the scene with traffic control.

The severe storms that came through the area were responsible for numerous calls in Palatine in addition to this incident. Among others, these included three responses for transformer fires or wires down, two other houses struck by lightning without fires and three occupied cars stranded in flooded roadways. These calls were handled by Palatine crews that were freed up from the house fire, as well as by automatic aid and mutual aid companies from surrounding fire departments including Palatine Rural, Rolling Meadows, Buffalo Grove and Hoffman Estates.

The Palatine Fire Department would like to emphasize that NOAA Weather Warning radios are available which will notify you and your family in the event of severe weather. These radios will sound an alert which can make you aware of weather watches and warnings in your area, allowing you to take protective action before a storm hits.

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