

Palatine Fire Department

Incident Press Release



For Immediate Release
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1457 N. Waterbury Circle Townhouse Fire

On Saturday, October 13, 2012 at 2:21 a.m., the Palatine Fire Department responded to a report of a fire at 1457 N. Waterbury Circle in Palatine. The first Palatine Fire Department crews arrived on the scene in less than 5 minutes and reported fire showing from a balcony of the 2-story, 7-unit townhouse building. The first fire companies attacked the exterior fire with a 1 3/4" hose line to knock down the main body of fire, and forced entry into the affected unit, where they encountered a considerable amount of smoke throughout the second-floor unit. Firefighters found fire in the walls and floor truss spaces, and had to open up the drywall to access and attack the fire. At the same time, other firefighters searched the unit for possible occupants, accessed the roof to assess for possible extension into the attic, laddered the building and provided for emergency medical coverage. The fire was declared under control at 2:47 a.m. and firefighters continued to ventilate smoke and perform salvage and overhaul activities for some time after that. The adjoining units were also checked for fire extension and found to have none.

The unit was occupied by one resident who was not at home at the time of the fire. Palatine Police officers assisted at the scene with traffic and crowd control. No civilians or firefighters were injured during this incident.

The fire was fought by 22 Palatine firefighters, staffing three engines, two ladder trucks, one rescue squad and three ambulances which responded to the scene along with two command officers. An ambulance from the Long Grove Fire Protection District responded under an automatic aid agreement to cover a Palatine fire station during the incident. The unit where the fire originated had significant damage to the deck and exterior, as well as to the walls on the inside of the fire area and the garage ceiling where firefighters had to remove the drywall to access the fire burning in concealed spaces. The unit was not tenable for the occupant, who was able to spend the night with family. The remaining units of the building sustained no damage. At the time of this release, the cause of the fire remains under investigation and damage estimates are not yet available.

The Palatine Fire Department reminds everyone to have working smoke detectors in their homes, and to be sure to have furnaces and heating appliances checked before the heating season.

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