



Palatine Fire Department

Incident Press Release

For Immediate Release

February 4, 2009

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1538 N. Rand Road, Palatine Commercial Fire

On Tuesday, February 3, 2009, at 11:43 p.m. the Palatine Fire Department responded to a report of smoke in the area of the Prairie Brook Shopping Center in the 1500 block of Rand Road, called in by a passer-by. The first units arrived on the scene in less than 4 minutes and found visible smoke in the area. Initial crews investigated the source of the smoke and found it was coming from Smakowski's Sausage and Deli at 1538 N. Rand Rd. Fire crews forced entry into that occupancy and discovered fire in a meat smoker in the delicatessen. The fire was quickly extinguished using a portable fire extinguisher, but the business sustained heavy smoke damage. Crews also forced entry into businesses (a restaurant and a dry cleaner's) on either side of the deli to check for fire extension; no fire was noted but smoke had also penetrated into those occupancies. All affected stores were ventilated to remove smoke.

A total of 13 firefighters manning two engines, one ladder truck, a rescue squad and an ambulance were on the scene, along with one command officer and four fire investigators. Palatine Police officers on the scene handled traffic control. Because the fire affected food service establishments, the Palatine Health Department also responded to the scene. Damage to the structure and contents is initially estimated at a total of \$85,000. A preliminary investigation revealed that improper installation of the smoker may have contributed to starting the fire; the fire remains under investigation by Palatine Fire Department investigators. All fire department units cleared the scene by 1:25 a.m. on February 4.

The Palatine Fire Department reminds residents and business owners to be sure to have any equipment or appliances properly installed by a licensed contractor. Improper installation of equipment can cause fires, sometimes months or years after the original installation. Make sure to properly maintain equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. If you have any questions, please call the Palatine Fire Department Public Education Division at (847) 202-6302 or the Palatine Fire Prevention Division at (847) 359-9029.

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