



Palatine Fire Department

Incident Press Release

For Immediate Release

February 13, 2009

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24 N. Hale St. Apartment Fire

On Friday, February 13, 2009 at 2:59 p.m. the Palatine Fire Department responded to a report of a bedroom fire in an apartment at the above address in Palatine, called in by the occupant. The first units arrived on the scene in less than 4 minutes and found black smoke from a window on the second floor of apartment B in the four-unit, two-story, wood frame building. The first-arriving engine crew stretched a 1 ¾" hoseline to the second floor to attack the fire while additional crews searched the building for occupants and for fire extension. Other fire crews provided ventilation, conducted salvage, raised ladders and provided emergency medical and rapid intervention operations. All five occupants (three residents and two visitors) of the fire unit were out on the Fire Department's arrival. The fire was declared under control at 3:10 p.m. The occupants reported they were alerted to the fire by an activated smoke alarm on the second floor. When they went to investigate they found smoke coming from a bedroom, and were able to remove a 17 month-old toddler from a playpen in an adjacent bedroom and evacuate the apartment. There were no injuries to residents or firefighters, but two pet cats died in the fire.

A total of 21 firefighters manning four engines, one ladder truck, a rescue squad, and two ambulances were on the scene, along with 5 command officers and three fire investigators. Palatine Police Department officers handled traffic and crowd control. Damage estimates are unavailable at the time of this release, and the fire remains under investigation by Palatine Fire Department investigators. Village of Palatine Neighborhood Services inspectors also responded the scene to evaluate the structure. At the time of this release all units except for the one in which the fire occurred were tenable for the occupants. Fire damage in the affected apartment was restricted to the bedroom the fire originated in, but there was smoke damage to the entire second floor of that unit.

The Palatine Fire Department reminds residents that a smoke alarms save lives! Per Illinois law, working smoke alarms are required on each floor of a structure, with one required to be within 15 feet of any sleeping area. We recommend a smoke alarm be placed in every bedroom as well. A tragedy was averted in this incident because the occupants had a working smoke alarm. Test your smoke alarms today to make sure they're working properly. If you have any questions, please call the Palatine Fire Department Public Education Division at (847) 202-6302.

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