Palatine Fire Department

Incident Press Release

For Immediate Release
March 19, 2009

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61 S. Winston Drive, Palatine
House Fire

On Thursday, March 19, 2009 at 10:18 a.m. the Palatine Fire Department responded to a report of a fire in a single-family home 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 smoke from the eaves and roof vents of the split-level, wood frame building. The first-arriving engine crew stretched a 1 ¾" hoseline to the upper floor to attack the fire in a bathroom 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. Of the home's four occupants, two were home at the time of the fire, along with a worker. All three were out of the house on the Fire Department's arrival. The fire was declared under control at 10:30 a.m. There were no injuries to residents or firefighters.

A total of 19 firefighters manning three engines, two ladder trucks, and two ambulances were on the scene, along with 5 command officers. Palatine Police Department officers handled traffic and crowd control. Damage estimates are unavailable at the time of this release. The fire was caused by a worker using a torch to do plumbing work in the upstairs bathroom. Fire damage was restricted to the bathroom the fire originated in, but as the fire got into the walls and attic area, these spaces had to opened up by firefighters to completely extinguish the fire.

The Palatine Fire Department reminds residents not to attempt to fight a fire yourself. If you discover a fire, call 911 immediately and get out of the building. Fires in enclosed areas will rapidly increase in size, giving off large volumes of toxic smoke and high heat which can trap you. If you have any questions, please call the Palatine Fire Department Public Education Division at (847) 202-6302.

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