Palatine Fire Department

Incident Press Release

For Immediate Release
May 12, 2009

Contacts: Battalion Chief Mike Freese
(847) 202-6628 - Office
(847) 202-6620 - Fax
(847) 202-6340 – Headquarters

Captain Doug Hoyt
(847) 202-6302 - Office
(847) 202-6620 - Fax
(847) 202-6340 - Headquarters

118 W. Cunningham Drive
House Fire

On Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 4:15 a.m. the Palatine Fire Department responded to a report of a garage fire 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 heavy fire and smoke from the attached garage already extending into the split-level, wood frame dwelling. The first-arriving engine crew stretched a 2 ½" hoseline to attack the fire in the garage, while additional crews pulled hoselines into the house and searched the building for occupants and for further fire extension. Other fire crews opened the attic space to attack the fire that had extended into that area, and provided ventilation, conducted salvage, raised ladders and provided emergency medical and rapid intervention operations. All three occupants of the house (two adults and one infant) were out on the Fire Department's arrival. The fire was declared under control at 5:28 a.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 the fire in the garage, and were able to remove the 6-month old baby from the bedroom directly over the fire and evacuate the house. At the same time, a jogger passing the house noticed the fire and knocked on the door to alert the residents. There were no injuries to the residents, and their two pet dogs also escaped the fire. One firefighter was transported to Northwest Community Hospital and has since been released.

A total of 28 firefighters manning three engines, three ladder trucks, a rescue squad, and four ambulances were on the scene, along with three command officers and two fire investigators. Crews from the Palatine Rural Fire District assisted at the incident under an automatic aid agreement, and 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. The house sustained heavy damage and was rendered untenable, and two cars and a motorcycle were also destroyed.

The Palatine Fire Department again 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 and in every bedroom as well. A tragedy was averted in this incident because the occupants had working smoke alarms. 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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