Palatine Fire Department

Incident Press Release

For Immediate Release
December 29, 2009

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1125 N. Sterling Ave.
Apartment Fire

On Tuesday, December 29, 2009 at 6:16 p.m. the Palatine Fire Department responded to a report of an activated fire alarm at the Woods of Palatine apartment complex at the above address in Palatine. As the first units were responding to the scene, Northwest Central Dispatch advised that they had received a call reporting smoke in the building. Additional fire units were dispatched at that time. The first unit arrived on the scene less than 7 minutes from the initial dispatch. First-arriving units found light smoke from a second floor apartment, and on investigation found a small fire that had been controlled by a single sprinkler head from the building's automatic sprinkler system. Additional units arrived and assisted with salvage efforts including shutting down the flow from the sprinkler and controlling water damage in the fire unit. Firefighters also accessed the units below the fire unit and spread tarps to protect the occupants' belongings and catch water coming through the drywall ceiling. The cause of the fire was determined by Palatine Fire Department investigators to be an unattended candle that ignited paper products. Damage to the unit of origin and the apartment directly below it is initially estimated at $10,000. Both units are untenable, displacing five occupants, but the building remains otherwise occupied. The apartment complex's management personnel were assisting displaced residents with temporary housing.

A total of 11 firefighters manning one engine, two ladder trucks, and a rescue squad were on the scene, along with a command officer and a fire investigator. No one was injured in the incident.

The Palatine Fire Department again reminds residents that automatic sprinkler systems are the best defense against fires. They will not only help control the fire by putting water directly in the area of the fire, but they will also notify the fire department, even if no one is present at the time. If you have any questions, please call the Palatine Fire Department Public Education Division at (847) 202-6302.

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