Palatine Fire Department

Incident Press Release

For Immediate Release
March 24, 2008

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1327 N. Winslowe Dr, Palatine
Multi-Family Building Fire

On Monday, March 24, 2008 at 12:53 p.m. the Palatine Fire Department responded to a report of a building on fire in the Beacon Cove Condominiums. The first units arrived on the scene in less than 5 minutes and found flames and heavy smoke coming through the roof of the 3-story, 12-unit building at 1327 / 1319 N. Winslowe. Due to the amount of fire initially seen and potential for fire spread in the wood-frame building, the Incident Commander called for a Box Alarm through the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS). The first-arriving engine crew stretched a 2 ½" hoseline to the third floor to attack the fire while additional crews opened ceilings and walls in the third floor units to expose the fire for the attack. The Palatine Police Department assisted in evacuating the affected and adjoining buildings. Other fire crews searched the remaining units for occupants and fire extension, and stretched additional hose lines to back up the attack crew. Still others conducted salvage, emergency medical and rapid intervention operations. Due to the very aggressive initial attack, the fire was controlled within twenty minutes of the Fire Department's arrival. There was very significant fire and water damage to the two third floor units of 1327, and the other units in building suffered varying levels of damage from water and firefighting activities. All 12 units have been initially ruled untenable. There were no injuries to residents or firefighters, and several pets were removed or protected in place in various units.

A total of 37 firefighters manning five engines, three ladder trucks, two rescue squads and three ambulances were on the scene, along with 8 command officers and two fire investigators. The Arlington Heights Fire Department responded as part of an automatic mutual aid agreement, and additional assistance was received on the scene from the Long Grove, Buffalo Grove, Hoffman Estates, Palatine Rural, Mount Prospect and Schaumburg fire departments on the Box Alarm. During the incident, the Elk Grove Township, Barrington and Palatine Rural fire departments provided units to stand by in the Palatine fire stations to cover any additional calls. Palatine Police officers on the scene handled traffic and crowd control and along with police social workers provided initial assistance to displaced residents. The American Red Cross was also called to the scene to continue assisting those residents affected by the fire. The Palatine Emergency Management Agency and Village of Palatine Neighborhood Services also provided assistance at the scene. Damage estimates are unavailable at the time of this release, and the fire remains under investigation by Palatine Fire Department investigators.

The Palatine Fire Departments reminds residents that if they notice a fire in their dwelling, get out immediately and stay out. Do not re-enter to try to save belongings or pets. If you have any questions, please call the Palatine Fire Department Public Education Division at (847) 202-6302.

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