Palatine Fire Department

Incident Press Release

For Immediate Release
October 15, 2008

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1100 N. Smith Street
Electrical Problem in Junior High School

On Wednesday, October 15, 2008 at 12:02 p.m. the Palatine Fire Department responded to a report of a problem with an electrical panel at Sundling Junior High School, 1100 N. Smith St. in Palatine. While en route, units were updated that the panel was smoking and that the school was being evacuated. The first units arrived on the scene within 3 minutes and found nothing showing from the exterior and students evacuated from the school, with school personnel advising there was smoke in the generator room. A crew of firefighters investigated the generator room while other firefighters met with the faculty to ensure all students were accounted for. In the generator room firefighters found a piece of electrical equipment that had been damaged, causing the smoke. The fire alarm panel was also in a "trouble" position, indicating it too may have sustained damage. Due to the combination of the electrical problem and the potential that the fire alarm was not functioning properly, fire and school district officials jointly decided not to allow students back into the school and bus them to Winston Campus as a precaution until proper repairs could be made to the electrical and alarm systems.

A total of 8 firefighters manning two engines, and one ambulance were on the scene, along with 2 command officers and a fire inspector from the Palatine Fire Prevention Division. The Palatine Police Department also responded to the incident. There were no injuries reported, and damage was confined to the electrical equipment. Maintenance staff from School District 15 were on scene along with ComEd to assess the extent of the damage and begin repairs.

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