



Palatine Fire Department

Incident Press Release

For Immediate Release

December 24, 2008

Contacts: Battalion Chief Randy Freise
(847) 202-6628 - Office
(847) 202-6620 - Fax
(847) 202-6340 - Headquarters

Deputy Chief Scott Andersen
(847) 202-6340 - Office
(847) 202-6620 - Fax

2277 S. Westwood Lane, Unincorporated Palatine House Fire

On Wednesday, December 24, 2008 at 2:00 a.m. the Palatine Fire Department responded to a report of a house fire in the Plum Grove Estates area of unincorporated Palatine, called in by a neighbor. This area is part of the Palatine Rural Fire District, and is covered by the Palatine Fire Department under a contractual agreement. The first units arrived on the scene in less than 8 minutes and found flames and heavy smoke from the rear corner basement and first floor of the split-level, single family house. The first-arriving engine crew stretched a 1 ¾" hoseline into the first floor to attack the fire while additional crews searched the house for occupants. The area the fire occurred in has no hydrants, so a water supply operation using water tanker trucks was set up. Other fire crews provided ventilation, opened walls, floors and ceilings to expose the fire, stretched additional hose lines, conducted salvage, emergency medical and rapid intervention operations. No one was home at the time of the fire, although the house is occupied by four people. The fire was declared under control at 3:14 a.m. Because the fire was not noticed until it was evident from the outside, the fire gained significant headway before it was seen by a neighbor, resulting in very heavy fire damage to the entire structure, leaving the house untenable. Approximately 9,700 gallons of water were supplied by the tanker trucks, shuttling water from a hydrant almost a mile away. There were no injuries to residents or firefighters.

A total of 34 firefighters manning four engines, four water tankers, two ladder trucks, a rescue squad, and three ambulances were on the scene, along with 6 command officers and two fire investigators. The Rolling Meadows Fire Department and Palatine Rural Fire District responded on the initial call as part of an automatic mutual aid agreement along with the Palatine department, and additional assistance was received on the scene from the Long Grove, Prospect Heights and Barrington fire departments. During the incident, the Elk Grove Township, Wheeling and Lake Zurich fire departments provided units to stand by in the Palatine fire stations to cover any additional calls. Cook County Sheriff's Police officers on the scene handled traffic and crowd control. The Palatine Emergency Management Agency's Community Emergency Response Team Rehab Team provided assistance to firefighters working 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 Cook County Sheriff's Police and the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

The Palatine Fire Department reminds residents that a monitored fire alarm system can provide the Fire Department with notification of a fire even if you are not home. If you have any questions, please call the Palatine Fire Department Public Education Division at (847) 202-6302.

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