



Palatine Fire Department

Incident Press Release

For Immediate Release

December 11, 2007

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600 S. Bennett Ave., Palatine House Fire

On Tuesday, December 11, 2007 at 8:21 a.m. the Palatine Fire Department responded to a report of a house fire in a single-family home at 600 S. Bennett Avenue. The first units arrived on the scene in less than 5 minutes and found heavy smoke pushing out of the front windows and front door of split-level house, with flames visible in the living room. Only one of the house's two occupants (a teenage female) was home at the time of the fire; she had evacuated along with a pet dog prior to the fire department's arrival. The first-arriving fire crews stretched a 1 3/4" hoseline, while another crew broke out the remaining first-floor windows to release heat and smoke. Other crews searched the house for additional occupants and checked for fire extension, while still others conducted salvage, emergency medical and rapid intervention operations. The fire was controlled within five minutes of the Fire Department's arrival, and fire damage was confined to the living room where it originated. There was however, very significant heat and smoke damage throughout the house, which was left untenable. The occupant was treated on the scene by Palatine Fire Department paramedics for smoke inhalation, and was transported to Northwest Community Hospital in stable condition.

A total of 21 firefighters manning four engines, one ladder truck, one rescue squad and two ambulances were on the scene, along with 6 command officers and one fire investigator. Mutual aid was provided by the Rolling Meadows Fire Department and the Palatine Rural Fire District under automatic mutual aid agreements. Palatine Police officers on the scene assisted with traffic control. Damage is preliminarily estimated at \$250,000. The fire remains under investigation by Palatine Fire Department investigators. There were initial reports that the fire may have started in the area of some Christmas decorations, but that has *not* been confirmed by fire investigators at the time of this release.

The Palatine Fire Department reminds residents to keep real trees well watered, and keep any heat sources well away from any live tree or wreath. In addition, use only listed and tested lights on any decorations, including artificial trees. Holiday candles can also be source of fires if they are not used properly. Keep them on solid, non-combustible bases well away from any flammable materials. If you have any questions, please call the Palatine Fire Department Public Education Division at (847) 202-6302.

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