



Palatine Fire Department

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Press Release

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HOUSE FIRE

**738 S. Elm Street, Palatine, IL
Incident # 4723
August 16, 2017
10:49 p.m.**

On Wednesday, August 16, 2017, at 10:49 p.m., the Palatine Fire Department was called to a report of a house that was struck by lightning. The first Palatine Fire Department crews arrived on the scene at 10:54 p.m. and were told by the homeowner that their house was struck by lightning. The first fire company investigated and found fire coming from a hole in the side of the home near the roof. A hose line was pulled to extinguish the fire on the exterior. Other fire companies entered the home and began to pull ceiling to expose hidden fire in the attic. Additional fire companies performed a search of the home for any trapped occupants and to locate any hidden fire. Firefighters stretched a supply line to a nearby fire hydrant while other firefighters performed support functions. The fire was declared under control at 11:19 p.m. Firefighters continued to perform salvage and overhaul activities for some time after that.

No civilians or firefighters were injured in the fire, which was contained to the home's attic. Damage estimates are not available at the time of this release. Palatine Fire Department investigators have determined that a lightning strike was the cause of the fire.

The fire was fought by 20 firefighters, staffing four engines, one ladder truck, and three ambulances which responded to the scene along with three command officers and one Fire Investigator. Units from the Rolling Meadows Fire Department and the Palatine Rural Fire Protection District were among the initial responders to the scene as part of an automatic aid agreement. An ambulance from the Long Grove Fire Protection District stood by in a Palatine Fire Station to assist with additional calls during this incident. Palatine Police officers assisted at the scene with traffic and crowd control.

The Palatine Fire Department reminds everyone that working smoke alarms save lives. Make sure that your smoke alarms are tested monthly and less than 10 years old.

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