



Palatine Fire Department

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Press Release

COMMERCIAL STRUCTURE FIRE

180 N. Smith St., Palatine, IL

Incident # 0470

January 25, 2018

10:17 hours

On Friday, January 25, 2019 at 10:17 a.m., the Palatine Fire Department responded to an activated fire alarm at 180 N. Smith Street, Durty Nellie's Pub, in Palatine. Police officers in the area reported smoke and fire visible from the exterior of the business as fire units were going en route, and the call was quickly upgraded to a working fire response. The first Palatine Fire Department crews arrived on the scene at 10:23 a.m. and reported flames and heavy smoke showing from a semi-enclosed exterior storage area, in the vicinity of the gas service. Firefighters were quickly able to confirm that the fire was fed by natural gas and a request was made through Northwest Central Dispatch to have NICOR respond to the scene. Palatine police helped evacuate the building while the first fire companies pulled a hose line for an offensive attack on the fire. Other firefighters stretched supply lines to fire hydrants and pulled additional hose lines to support the fire attack. Firefighters also searched the building for any trapped occupants and checked the upper level of the business for fire extension. Additional crews set up an aerial ladder tower to the roof and provided emergency medical standby. At the height of the incident, firefighters had 5 hose lines in service protecting the building until the gas could be shut off. Due to the potential for significant fire spread in the building, the Incident Commander requested a Box Alarm through the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS), bringing additional fire crews to the scene. NICOR arrived, and was able to shut off the gas service to the building. Once the gas was secured, companies quickly completed extinguishment. The fire was declared under control at 11:14 a.m.

No civilians or firefighters were injured in the fire, which left the business uninhabitable. Damage estimates are not available at the time of this release, and the fire remains under investigation by Palatine Fire Department investigators.

The fire was fought by 29 firefighters, staffing five engines, two ladder trucks, one rescue squad and four ambulances which responded to the scene along with seven command officers and two Fire Investigators. Units from the Palatine Rural and Rolling Meadows Fire Departments were among the initial responders to the scene as part of automatic aid agreements. Additional units from the Lake Zurich, Mount Prospect, Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Lincolnshire and Barrington Fire Departments responded on the Box Alarm request, but were returned as the fire was brought under control. Additionally, units from the Long Grove and Elk Grove Township Fire Districts and the Wheeling and Itasca Fire Departments stood by in Palatine fire stations to provide coverage for any additional calls. Palatine Police officers assisted at the scene with traffic and crowd control, and responders were further supported on scene by Palatine Public Works, and volunteers from the Palatine Emergency Management Agency Fire Rehab Team.

The Palatine Fire Department reminds everyone to identify a second exit from any commercial building. If a fire alarm sounds, take action and leave the building until firefighters have given the all clear to re-enter. Have an escape plan, practice it, and be prepared to use it in the event of any fire.

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