



Palatine Fire Department

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Press Release

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HIGH-RISE RESIDENTIAL FIRE WITH RESCUES

1275 E. Baldwin Lane, San Tropei Condos, Palatine, IL

Incident # 3353

June 10, 2015

4:42 a.m.

On Wednesday, June 10, 2015, at 4:42 a.m., the Palatine Fire Department was dispatched to an activated fire alarm at 1275 E. Baldwin Ln. in Palatine at the San Tropei Condos. The first Palatine Fire Department crews arrived on the scene at 4:49 a.m. and initially reported nothing showing from the exterior of the 6-story, 72-unit condominium building. The first fire company entered the building to investigate, and received reports of smoke on the sixth floor. Subsequent arriving units reported seeing smoke from the roof area, and the call was upgraded to a working fire response. Upon reaching the sixth floor, the initial fire department crew reported heavy smoke on the floor and a fire in unit 609. A ladder truck was assigned to the rear of the building, and several crews worked together to stretch an attack hose line to the fire unit up the stairs, supplied from the building's standpipe. One fire victim, an adult male, was reported; he was treated and transported to Northwest Community Hospital with non-life threatening injuries, and later transferred to the Burn Center at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood. Due to the large number of occupants in the building and the potential for fire extension, the Incident Commander requested a Box Alarm through the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS), bringing additional fire crews to the scene. Intensive search and rescue operations were conducted on the fourth and fifth floors, including two residents removed via aerial ladder from a balcony, several others who were assisted down interior stairs, and several in units remote from the fire who were protected in place until it was safe to remove them via an interior stairway. The fire was aggressively attacked with an exterior water stream from the ladder truck while interior hose lines were being stretched. One interior hose line was used to extinguish the main fire, and a second hose line provided a back-up to the first. The bulk of the fire was knocked down by 5:10 a.m. and it was declared under control at 5:23 a.m. Firefighters continued to work to ensure all residents were accounted for, to ventilate smoke and gases and perform salvage and overhaul activities for some time after that. Due to the power being disconnected to the building, the smoke damage on the sixth floor and water damage to lower floors, the building is not considered tenable at the time of this release. Residents were escorted back to their units by Palatine Fire and Police personnel to retrieve personal items, and will be allowed to return once the building has been made safe. Representatives from the American Red Cross were on the scene and assisting residents, along with personnel from the Village of Palatine Neighborhood Services and building management.

Three firefighters suffered minor injuries in the fire. One was transported to Northwest Community Hospital and two were treated on the scene. Damage estimates are not available at the time of this release, and the fire remains under investigation by Palatine Fire Department investigators.



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The fire was fought by 62 firefighters, staffing eight engines, six ladder trucks, two rescue squads and six ambulances which responded to the scene along with seven command officers and two Fire Investigators. Crews from the Arlington Heights Fire Department were among the initial responders to the scene as part of an automatic mutual aid agreement, and assistance was also received from the Lake Zurich, Rolling Meadows, Palatine Rural, Mount Prospect, Barrington, Buffalo Grove, Des Plaines and Schaumburg Fire Departments as the incident was upgraded. During the incident, units from the Itasca, Elk Grove Township and Fox River Grove Fire Departments stood by in Palatine fire stations to provide coverage for any additional calls. Palatine Police officers assisted at the scene with security, traffic and crowd control and the Palatine Emergency Management Agency's Fire Rehab Team assisted with firefighter rehab. The Salvation Army's Disaster Services provided an emergency canteen unit to serve both displaced residents and responders.

The Palatine Fire Department reminds everyone to have working smoke detectors in their homes, whether a single-family dwelling, an apartment or a condo. Have an escape plan, practice it, and be prepared to use it in the event of any fire.

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