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## **Palatine Fire Department**

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# Press Release

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### **STRUCTURE FIRE**

**250 E. Wood St, Palatine, IL**

**Incident # 4946**

**August 17, 2016**

**12:19 hours**

On Wednesday, August 17, 2016 at 12:19 p.m., the Palatine Fire Department was called to an activated fire alarm at the Palatine Park District, 250 E. Wood St. in Palatine. The first Palatine Fire Department crews arrived on the scene at 12:21 p.m. and were met by an employee who reported smoke in the rear gymnastics area of facility. The incident commander upgraded the call to a structure fire response, and crews entered the building to investigate. Upon investigation, firefighters located a fire in a void space under a utility closet in the gymnastics area. Fire crews had a difficult time accessing the fire, and had to open interior walls and breach a brick exterior wall to fully expose and extinguish the fire, which was controlled with one hose line. Other crews provided a water supply, laddered the building and provided for emergency medical coverage. The fire was under control at 12:35 p.m., although firefighters remained on the scene to ventilate smoke and gases and perform extensive overhaul activities for some time after that.

No civilians or firefighters were injured in the fire, and damage was contained to a corner of the gymnastics area. Palatine Park District employees had ensured the building was evacuated when the fire alarm activated. 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 26 firefighters, staffing four engines, two ladder trucks, one rescue squad and three ambulances which responded to the scene along with three command officers and two Fire Investigators. Units from the Palatine Rural Fire District and Rolling Meadows Fire Department were among the responders to the scene as part of an automatic aid agreement. During the incident, a unit from the Long Grove Fire Department stood by in a Palatine fire station to provide coverage for any additional calls. Palatine Police officers assisted at the scene with traffic and crowd control.

The Palatine Fire Department reminds everyone to note the location of exits in public buildings, which may not necessarily be the same as the door they entered. If you hear a fire alarm sound, evacuate the building until you receive an "all clear" to return.

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