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## **Palatine Fire Department**

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# Press Release

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### **DRYER FIRE**

**1180 S. Parkside Drive, Palatine, IL**

**Incident # 7336**

**December 7, 2016**

**10:45 p.m.**

On Wednesday, December 7, 2016, at 10:45 p.m. the Palatine Fire Department was called to a report of a dryer fire at 1180 S. Parkside Drive in Palatine. The first Fire Department crews arrived on the scene at 10:50 p.m. and reported light smoke coming from the garage of the two story townhome. The first fire company entered the home with a dry chemical fire extinguisher and aggressively attacked the fire that was extending from the dryer. Other fire companies on the scene assisted in extinguishing the fire, pulled a hose line, and performed a search of the home for any trapped occupants. Firefighters stretched a supply line to a nearby fire hydrant while other firefighters performed support functions. The fire was declared under control at 10:54 p.m. Fire companies continued to ventilate smoke and fire gases and 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 laundry room. Damage estimates are not available at the time of this release. Palatine Fire Department investigators have determined that an accumulation of dryer lint at the base of the gas dryer was the cause of the fire.

The fire was fought by 23 firefighters, staffing three engines, two ladder trucks, one rescue squad and three ambulances which responded to the scene along with one command officer and one Fire Investigator. Units from the Rolling Meadows Fire Department were among the initial responders to the scene as part of an automatic aid agreement. Palatine Police officers assisted at the scene with traffic and crowd control.

The leading cause of home clothes dryer fires is failure to clean them. The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) recommends that lint filters should be cleaned before or after each use and to remove lint that has collected around the drum. The NFPA also recommends cleaning lint from the dryer's vent pipe annually or more often if you notice that it is taking longer than normal for your clothes to dry (NFPA 2013).

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