

Palatine Fire Department

Incident Press Release



For Immediate Release
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516 N. Wilke Rd. Condominium Building Fire

On Friday, May 17, 2013 at 8:21 p.m., the Palatine Fire Department was called to a report of a fire at 516 N. Wilke Rd. in Palatine. The first Palatine Fire Department crews arrived on the scene at 8:27 p.m. and reported heavy fire from a first-floor unit, extending to a second-floor unit directly above it and into the attic of the 2-story, 24-unit condominium building. The first fire companies pulled a 2 ½" hose line and aggressively attacked the fire from the exterior, while other firefighters stretched a supply line to a fire hydrant and pulled two 1 ¾" hose lines into the building for interior attack of the fires on the two floors. Still other firefighters accessed the roof with the aerial tower and cut a ventilation hole to release heat, smoke and fire gases accumulating in the attic. Firefighters also searched the smoke-charged building for any trapped occupants, forcing entry into numerous units. Other crews laddered the building and provided for emergency medical coverage. Due to the amount of fire encountered on two floors and the potential for fire spread, the Incident Commander called for a Box Alarm through the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS). Firefighters had to open numerous walls and ceilings in the affected units to expose the fire for extinguishment. The fire was declared under control at 8:52 p.m. Firefighters continued to ventilate smoke and gases and perform extensive salvage and overhaul activities for some time after that.

No civilians or firefighters were injured in the fire, which left three units uninhabitable, displacing four occupants. Although there was some smoke and water damage throughout the common areas, the remaining units were tenable and residents were escorted back to their units by firefighters. 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 46 firefighters, staffing seven engines, four ladder trucks, two rescue squads and four ambulances which responded to the scene along with six command officers and two Fire Investigators. Units from the Arlington Heights Fire Department were among the initial responders to the scene as part of an automatic aid agreement, and additional assistance was received on the scene from Lake Zurich, Rolling Meadows, Mount Prospect, Schaumburg, Elk Grove Village, Buffalo Grove, Wood Dale, Hoffman Estates and Palatine Rural Fire Departments on the Box Alarm. During the incident, units from the Long Grove, Elk Grove Township, Barrington and Algonquin 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 a Village of Palatine Neighborhood Services inspector also responded to the scene to evaluate the building.

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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