

Palatine Fire Department

Incident Press Release



For Immediate Release
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Deer Grove Forest Preserve Brush Fire

On Saturday, March 10th at 4:34 p.m., the Palatine Fire Department received a report of a brush fire in the northeast corner of the Deer Grove Forest Preserve, near the intersection of Dee Lane and Preserve Drive. The first crew, an engine company from Lake Zurich responding under an automatic aid agreement, arrived on the scene in 8 minutes and reported a small brush fire and began a fire attack. Due to the high winds and low humidity at the time, the fire grew rapidly and they called for additional equipment. The Palatine Fire Department responded, and deployed units to protect downwind exposures along Rand Road and Lake-Cook Road. The fire was stopped in these areas, but due to the dry, long grasses present in the area began to burn back into the wind and in a crosswind direction back toward homes along Brentwood Drive on the north side of the forest preserve. Additional units from Palatine, along with wildland firefighters from the Forest Preserve District of Cook County's Department of Resource Management and Resident Watchmen were summoned to protect these structures, eventually necessitating a Box Alarm response. A total of over 50 firefighters staffing 23 apparatus of various kinds responded, along with 5 command officers. The fire was extremely difficult to fight because it was burning in marshland, and firefighters had to contend with 1-2 foot deep water and mud while working with hand tools to contain the fire. No structures or vehicles were damaged in the fire, which was declared under control at 9:55 pm and out at 10:29 pm.

The Cook County Forest Preserve Police assisted firefighters and with crowd control, and Palatine Police officers, going door-to-door met with numerous residents during the fire; several residents chose to voluntarily evacuate as a precaution, but no mandatory evacuations were ordered. No civilians or police officers were injured during this incident, but one firefighter was treated on the scene for a minor injury. Other agencies that assisted at the scene included the Palatine Emergency Management Agency, Palatine Fire Rehab Team, Metro Emergency Support Services canteen, Palatine Public Works, and the Cook County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Fire departments that responded to the scene included the Palatine Rural, Long Grove, Prospect Heights, Algonquin-Lake in the Hills and Countryside Fire Protection Districts and the Hoffman Estates, Mount Prospect, Rolling Meadows and Arlington Heights Fire Departments. Itasca, Elk Grove Township and Streamwood provided units to stand by in Palatine fire stations to provide continuous coverage during the incident.

Approximately 10 acres of grass and marshland was burned in the fire, which was apparently accidental in nature, caused by improper disposal of smoking materials.

The Palatine Fire Department reminds everyone to use extreme caution in disposing of smoking materials at any time, and to use caution with any heat-producing product in dry, windy conditions in fields or brush.

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