

Palatine Fire Department

Incident Press Release

For Immediate Release
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216 S. Clyde Ave. and 311 N. Fremont St. Simultaneous House Fires

On Thursday, May 12, 2011 at 5:19 a.m., the Palatine Fire Department received reports of two separate house fires following a thunderstorm that came through the area. The calls, approximately a mile distant from each other, were received within a 30-second time span.

The first call, at 216 S. Clyde Ave. was a report of a house on fire. The first unit arrived within 5 minutes of the call and found fire showing on the side of second floor of the 2-story house. They attacked the fire with a 1 ¾" hose line. Other crews checked inside the house, secured a water supply, and provided overhaul. Damage was mostly confined to the exterior of the house, with a small amount of extension to the inside. Fire damage was initially estimated at \$15,000. There were no injuries. 13 firefighters staffing two engines, one ladder truck, one ambulance and a rescue squad, along with one command officer and two fire investigators responded to this incident. The Palatine Rural Fire District responded to the scene under an automatic aid agreement.

The second fire, at 311 N. Fremont St. was reported as a fire in the attic. The first crew arrived within 4 minutes of the call, and found fire showing from an attic window on the side of the house. They made their way to the attic and attacked the fire with a 1 ¾" hose. Other crews provided ventilation, search, overhaul and salvage operations. There was significant damage to the attic of the house, with damage initially estimated at \$35,000. There were no injuries at this incident either. 15 firefighters staffing three engines, one ladder truck, one ambulance and a rescue squad responded, as well as one command officer and two fire investigators. One of the engine companies was from Arlington Heights which responded under a mutual aid agreement.

Preliminary investigation reports of both fires indicate that the fires were naturally caused, with lightning strikes being the ignition source in both cases.

The Palatine Fire Department would like to emphasize that NOAA Weather Warning radios are available which will notify you and your family in the event of severe weather. These radios will sound an alert which can make you aware of weather watches and warnings in your area, allowing you to take protective action before a storm hits.

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