



Palatine Fire Department

Incident Press Release

For Immediate Release

December 15, 2009

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720 N. Helgesen St. House Fire

On Tuesday, December 15, 2009 at 4:58 a.m. the Palatine Fire Department responded to a report of a garage fire at the above address in Palatine. The first units arrived on the scene in less than 6 minutes and found heavy fire and smoke from the attached garage already extending into the two story, wood frame dwelling. The first-arriving engine crew stretched a 2 ½” hoseline to attack the fire in the house, while additional crews pulled 2 1/2” hoselines to attack the garage fire and other crews checked for further fire extension. All three occupants of the house were out on the Fire Department’s arrival. The fire was declared under control at 5:35 a.m. The occupants reported they were alerted to the fire by “popping sounds” when they went to investigate they found the fire in the garage. There were no injuries to the residents, three firefighters sustained minor injuries.

A total of 35 firefighters manning four engines, two ladder trucks, a rescue squad, and two ambulances and two water tenders were on the scene, along with four command officers and two fire investigators. Crews from the Palatine Rural Fire District, Lake Zurich Fire Department and Long Grove Fire Protection District assisted at the incident under automatic aid agreements, and Palatine Police Department officers handled traffic and crowd control. Damage estimates are unavailable at the time of this release, and the fire remains under investigation by Palatine Fire Department investigators. The house sustained heavy damage and was rendered untenable, and one car and a van were also destroyed.

The Palatine Fire Department again reminds residents that a smoke alarms save lives! Per Illinois law, working smoke alarms are required on each floor of a structure, with one required to be within 15 feet of any sleeping area and in every bedroom as well. Test your smoke alarms today to make sure they’re working properly. If you have any questions, please call the Palatine Fire Department Public Education Division at (847) 202-6302.

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