



Palatine Fire Department

Incident Press Release

For Immediate Release

February 05, 2007

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1200 W. Algonquin Rd. Harper College, Storage Room Fire

On Monday, February 5, 2007 at 10:30 am the Palatine Fire Department responded to an activated fire alarm at Harper College, 1200 W. Algonquin Rd, in the Student and Administration Center, Building A. The first units arrived on the scene at 10:35. Their initial investigation revealed smoke in the basement of that building, coming from a food service storeroom. They found a small fire in that room, and attacked it with a portable fire extinguisher, which was then backed up by a hose line stretched by the next arriving engine crew. Due to the below-grade location of the fire, removal of smoke had to be accomplished using ventilation blowers. There were no injuries to occupants or firefighters. Approximately 200 people are usually in the building at that time of day; all had evacuated prior to Fire Department arrival.

Crews from the Palatine Fire Department, the Rolling Meadows Fire Department and the Palatine Rural Fire District responded to the incident under a mutual aid agreement. In total, 19 firefighters, 6 command officers and 2 investigators were on the scene. Damage estimates are not yet available at the time of this release, and the cause remains under investigation by Palatine Fire Department and Harper College Police Department investigators.

The Palatine Fire Department wants to stress the value of fire alarm systems. Alarm systems give the occupants early warning of a fire, and will simultaneously summon the Fire Department. As escape plans are important at home, they are also important when out in the community. Know the location of emergency exits wherever you are.

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