



Palatine Fire Department

Incident Press Release

For Immediate Release

January 16, 2007

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121 W. Palatine Rd. Commercial Structure Fire

On Tuesday, January 16, 2007 at 5:28 pm the Palatine Fire Department responded to an activated fire alarm at Heng Wing Restaurant, 121 W. Palatine Rd, followed up by a call reporting a smell of smoke in the building. The first units arrived on the scene less than 4 minutes later. Their initial investigation revealed a smell of something burning. They ensured the building had been evacuated, and continued to investigate, finding smoke in the basement. As the crew progressed into a storage area they encountered dense smoke and steam, and an activated sprinkler head. The crew used a thermal imaging camera to determine the seat of the fire. The sprinkler system kept the fire in check, and although a hose line was pulled, it was not needed and the fire was extinguished with a portable fire extinguisher. Other crews controlled utilities, provided ventilation, performed salvage and overhaul and safety and support activities. The fire was declared under control at 5:50 pm. Salvage and investigation activities were hampered by high levels of carbon monoxide due to the dense smoke, and extensive forced ventilation was necessary to allow personnel to safely operate in the fire area. There were no injuries to occupants or firefighters, and all 22 people in the restaurant (patrons and staff) had evacuated prior to Fire Department arrival.

Crews from both the Palatine Fire Department and the Rolling Meadows Fire Department responded to the incident under a mutual aid agreement. In total, 21 firefighters, 6 command officers and 3 investigators were on the scene. Damage estimates are still being calculated at the time of this release, and the cause remains under investigation.

The Palatine Fire Department wants to stress the value of fire sprinkler systems and alarm systems. Sprinkler systems are designed to control a fire prior to its getting out of control, often before the fire department arrives on scene. Only sprinkler heads in the immediate vicinity of the fire discharge water, as they are individually activated by heat. 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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