

Palatine Fire Department

Incident Press Release

For Immediate Release
January 26, 2006

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68 West Pleasant Hill Blvd. Bedroom Fire

On Thursday, January 26, 2006, at 2:55 p.m., the Palatine Fire Department responded to a report of a fire in a house to the South of the Kirk Center School at 500 S. Plum Grove. The first crew arrived on the scene 4 minutes later and reported heavy smoke and fire coming from the windows of a second floor bedroom of the house at 68 West Pleasant Hill Blvd. The first engine crew used a 1 ¾" hose line to extinguish the fire. The tower crew raised ladders to the roof and cut a hole to vent the heavy smoke from the interior of the house. Other crews provided search and rescue, salvage and overhaul, EMS, safety and support functions. The fire was under control within fifteen minutes. The fire was contained to the bedroom where it began. There was heavy smoke damage throughout the house and significant damage to contents on the second floor.

Crews from both Palatine and Rolling Meadows Fire Departments responded to this fire under a mutual response agreement between the departments. 19 firefighters, 7 administrative staff members and 3 investigators were on the scene. Initial damage is estimated to be \$50,000. There were two residents at home at the time of the fire. They reported hearing "something fall" in the upstairs bedroom. As he was going up the stairs to investigate the sound, the resident said the smoke detector began to activate. He opened the door to the bedroom and saw heavy fire and smoke. He returned to the first floor to help his 95 yr old mother evacuate the house. He returned with an extinguisher to fight the fire. When he made it back to the second floor the heat and smoke were so heavy that he had to evacuate the house. The resident suffered minor injuries and was not transported to the hospital. At the time of this release the cause of the fire is under investigation.

The Palatine Fire Department stresses the importance of having working smoke detectors for every floor of the home and near sleeping areas. Always make sure that someone is calling 911. Lastly, we do NOT recommend fighting interior fires, due to the potential for serious injury or death. Evacuate to a safe area and leave firefighting to the professionals.

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