

# **Palatine Fire Department**

## **Incident Press Release**

*For Immediate Release*  
**January 30, 2006**

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### **1517 N. Winslowe Drive Apartment Fire**

On Monday, January 30, 2006, at 8:49 p.m., the Palatine Fire Department responded to a report of a fire in an apartment at 1517 N. Winslowe Drive. The first crew arrived on the scene 4 minutes later and reported heavy smoke and fire coming from the windows and sliding patio door of a third floor apartment in the 6-unit building. The first engine crew used a 1 ¾" hose line to attack the fire. The tower crew raised ladders to the roof and cut a hole to vent smoke and heat from the attic and involved unit. Other crews provided additional hose lines, search and rescue, salvage and overhaul, EMS, safety and support functions. The fire was under control within twenty-two minutes. The fire destroyed the unit it originated in, and caused significant water and smoke damage to the other units in the building. Extensive salvage operations were undertaken by firefighters to minimize the water damage to contents in the units below the fire. The Red Cross was called to the scene to assist occupants of the building in finding temporary shelter.

Crews from both Palatine and Arlington Heights Fire Departments responded to this fire under a mutual response agreement between the departments. A total of 23 firefighters, 5 command and administrative staff members and 2 investigators were on the scene. Damage estimates are still being calculated at the time of this release. There were two residents at home in the apartment at the time of the fire. They reported a grease fire on the stove in the kitchen. One occupant attempted to fight the fire by throwing water on it, causing the burning grease to splatter around the kitchen, spreading the fire. One of the occupants was nearly trapped on the balcony by smoke, but was able to escape without assistance. Both occupants had exited the building by the arrival of the Fire Department. The Palatine Police Department assisted in evacuating the other occupants of the building. There were no injuries reported. 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. Do not leave any cooking unattended, and if a fire in a pan should occur, smother it with a lid that completely covers the pan. NEVER put water on a grease fire. The Fire Department does NOT recommend fighting any interior fires due to the great potential for injury or death. Evacuate and call 911.

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