



Palatine Fire Department

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Press Release

Condominium Fire

235 N. Smith Street, Palatine, IL

Incident # 1518

March 14, 2019

2:43 p.m.

On Thursday March 14, 2019 at 2:43 p.m., the Palatine Fire Department responded to the report of a fire at 235 N. Smith Street in Palatine. The first Palatine Fire Department crews arrived on the scene at 2:48 p.m. and were told by the resident that there was a fire. Fire department crews made access to the fifth floor and found smoke and water in the hallway. Upon entering the unit fire crews found that an automatic fire sprinkler system had activated. The automatic fire sprinkler system completely extinguished the fire and limited damage to the master bedroom, closet, and bathroom. Firefighters stretched a supply line to a nearby hydrant while other firefighters performed support functions. The fire was declared under control at 2:55 p.m. Firefighters continued to perform salvage, overhaul, and investigative activities for some time after that.

No civilians or firefighters were injured in the fire which was contained to the condominium's master bedroom, bathroom, and closet. Damage estimates are not available at the time of this release. The cause of the fire has been determined to be accidental in nature.

The emergency response brought forty five firefighters staffing six engines, four ladder trucks, five ambulances, and one rescue squad which responded to the scene along with three command officers and two fire investigators. Units from the Palatine Rural, Arlington Heights, Barrington, Buffalo Grove, and Hoffman Estates Fire Departments were among the initial responders to the scene as part of an automatic aid agreement. An ambulance from the Long Grove Fire Protection District stood by in a Palatine Fire Station to assist with additional calls during this incident. Palatine Police officers assisted residents at the scene and provided traffic control.

Automatic fire sprinklers are highly effective and reliable elements of a total fire protection system. When fire sprinklers are present, fires were kept to the room of origin 97 percent of the time (U.S. Experience with Sprinklers, NFPA report, 2017). This fire is an excellent example of automatic fire sprinkler effectiveness.

The Palatine Fire Department reminds everyone that working smoke alarms save lives. Make sure that your smoke alarms are tested monthly and less than 10 years old. For more information on fire safety visit www.palatine.il.us or www.NFPA.org.