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## **Palatine Fire Department**

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# **Press Release**

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### **STRUCTURE FIRE**

**1453 Winslowe Dr, Palatine, IL**

**Incident # 1321**

**February 23, 2014**

**08:12 hours**

On Sunday, February 23, 2014 at 8:12 a.m., the Palatine Fire Department was called to an activated fire alarm at 1453 Winslowe Dr. in Palatine. While units were en route, Northwest Central Dispatch advised that they had received additional calls reporting smoke in the building and the call was upgraded to a working fire response. The first Palatine Fire Department crews arrived on the scene at 8:17 a.m. and reported heavy fire from a first-floor unit of the 3-story, 12-unit condominium building. The first fire companies pulled a hose line and aggressively attacked the fire from the exterior, while other firefighters pulled an additional hose line into the building for interior attack of the fire and stretched a supply line to a fire hydrant. As it was unclear if all occupants were accounted for, firefighters searched the entire building to ensure that all residents had exited the building. Still other firefighters accessed the roof and interior void spaces to check for extension. Other crews laddered the building and provided for emergency medical coverage. Firefighters had to open numerous walls and ceilings in the affected unit to expose the fire for extinguishment. The fire was declared under control at 8:27 a.m. Firefighters continued to ventilate smoke and gases and perform extensive salvage and overhaul activities for some time after that.

No civilians or firefighters were injured in the fire, which left three units uninhabitable, displacing approximately fifteen occupants. Representatives of the American Red Cross were on the scene assisting those residents, ensuring temporary housing and other immediate needs were being attended to. Damage estimates are not available at the time of this release, and the fire remains under investigation by Palatine Fire Department investigators.

The fire was fought by 25 firefighters, staffing three engines, two ladder trucks, one rescue squad and three ambulances which responded to the scene along with four command officers and three Fire Investigators. Units from the Arlington Heights Fire Department were among the responders to the scene as part of an automatic aid agreement. During the incident, a unit from the Long Grove Fire Department stood by in a Palatine fire station to provide coverage for any additional calls. Palatine Police officers assisted at the scene with traffic and crowd control, and an inspector from Palatine Neighborhood Services was also on scene to evaluate the structure and units for habitability.

The Palatine Fire Department reminds everyone to have working smoke detectors in their homes, whether a single-family dwelling, an apartment or a condo. Have an escape plan, practice it, and be prepared to use it in the event of any fire.

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