



Palatine Fire Department

Incident Press Release

For Immediate Release

May 15, 2007

Contacts:	Captain James Mayer (847) 202-6628 - Office (847) 202-6620 - Fax (847) 202-6340 – Headquarters	Captain Doug Hoyt (847) 202-6302 - Office (847) 202-6621 - Fax (847) 202-6340 - Headquarters
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225 S. Rohlwing Rd. Condominium Fire

On Tuesday May 15th, 2007 at 1:08 p.m. the Palatine Fire Department responded to an activated fire alarm at 225 S. Rohlwing Rd. at Willow Creek Commons. The first units arrived on the scene at 1:12 p.m. and found smoke pushing out from a window on the fourth floor. At about the same time a 911 call was received by Northwest Central Dispatch reporting smoke in the building. The first fire crew advanced to the fourth floor via stairs, and upon opening the door into the fourth floor hallway encountered heavy smoke and heat conditions with zero visibility. They heard moaning from the hallway, and located an adult female who was removed to an area of safety, then down the stairs to a medical treatment area that was set up in a parking lot. She was transported to Northwest Community Hospital by Palatine Fire Department ambulance in serious condition with life-threatening injuries. Two other adult occupants (one male, one female) of a unit adjacent to the fire unit were trapped on a balcony on the fourth floor and were removed by firefighters with a portable ladder. They were also treated on the scene, then transported to Northwest Community Hospital with non-life threatening injures.

The building in which the fire occurred is a 6-story, 100-unit condominium building, of concrete and masonry construction. Due to the location of the fire on the fourth floor, the heat conditions, and the known life hazard a Box Alarm and later a Second Alarm were requested through the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, bringing assistance from the Palatine Rural, Hoffman Estates, Arlington Heights, Elk Grove Village, Schaumburg, Mount Prospect, Buffalo Grove, Long Grove, Rolling Meadows,

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Streamwood, Lake Zurich, Wood Dale and Des Plaines fire departments to the scene, and also brought the Elk Grove Township, Long Grove and Barrington fire departments to stand by in the Palatine fire stations. A total of 58 firefighters, 10 command officers and 3 investigators manning 8 engines, 5 ladder trucks, 3 rescue squads and 5 ambulances were on the scene, along with a canteen from the Metro Emergency Support Services.

The fire was attacked with a single 1 ¾” hose line stretched from a standpipe and was under control at 1:35 p.m. Fire damage was confined to a single unit, number 418, although smoke and heat damage extended to the fourth-floor hallway and stairwell. A number of other units on the fourth and fifth floor sustained damage when the doors were forced open by firefighters searching for occupants trapped by the smoke and heat. The cause of the fire is under investigation by Palatine Fire Department investigators.

At the time of this release, Palatine Neighborhood Services and building management were on the scene evaluating building condition to determine if residents would be able to return. Damage estimates are currently unavailable.

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