

Palatine Fire Department

Incident Press Release

For Immediate Release
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Contacts: Battalion Chief Mike Freese
847 202 6628
847 202 6620- Fax
847 202 6340- Headquarters

Lieutenant Doug Hoyt
847 202 6302
847 202 6621 - Fax
847 202 6340- Headquarters

1319 Baldwin Court 2-Alarm Condominium Fire

On Thursday, May 25, 2006, at 7:29 p.m., the Palatine Fire Department responded to a report of a fire in a condominium at 1319 Baldwin Ct. The first crew arrived on the scene within 5 minutes and reported heavy smoke and fire coming from a window of a second floor condo in the three story, 11-unit building, extending into the roof structure and the third-floor unit above. Due to the heavy fire, the size of the building and potential for fire spread, the incident commander requested a second alarm. The first engine crew used a 1 ¾" hose line to attack the fire. The tower crew raised its ladder and used its master stream to extinguish the rapidly spreading fire in the attic and third floor. Other crews provided additional hose lines, search and rescue, ventilation, salvage and overhaul, EMS, safety and support functions. The fire was declared under control at 8:23 pm. The fire destroyed the unit it originated in and the unit directly above it, 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 adjoining and 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 initially responded to this fire under a mutual response agreement between the departments, and the second alarm assignment brought assistance from the Palatine Rural, Long Grove, Buffalo Grove, Hoffman Estates, Mount Prospect, Schaumburg, Lake Zurich, Elk Grove Village and Prospect Heights Fire Departments, while Elk Grove Township, Itasca and Barrington provided units to man the Palatine stations during the incident. A total of 59 firefighters, 10 command officers and 2 investigators were on the scene. Damage estimates are still being calculated at the time of this release. Six residents were treated at the scene by Palatine Fire Department paramedics for minor injuries; none were transported to the hospital. The Palatine Police Department assisted in evacuating the other occupants of the building, and in controlling traffic at the incident scene. At the time of this release the cause of the fire remains under investigation, but it is believed to be accidental.

The Palatine Fire Department stresses the importance of having working smoke detectors for every floor of the home and near sleeping areas. Have escape routes planned, and practice them.

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