

# **Palatine Fire Department**

## **Incident Press Release**

*For Immediate Release*  
**September 29, 2006**

Contacts: Captain Jim Mayer

847 202 6628

847 202 6620- Fax

847 202 6340- Headquarters

Captain Doug Hoyt

847 202 6302

847 202 6621 - Fax

847 202 6340- Headquarters

### **716 East Independence Drive Kitchen Fire**

On Friday, September 29, 2006, at 4:30 p.m., the Palatine Fire Department responded to a report of smoke coming from an apartment at 716 E. Independence Drive. The first crew arrived on the scene 4 minutes later and reported smoke coming from the balcony of a second floor apartment in the 6-unit building. The first engine crew entered the building to investigate and found a fire in the kitchen of the second floor unit. They controlled the fire with a portable extinguisher, while additional crews stretched a hoseline as a precaution and conducted a search of the building due to the smoke conditions. Other crews provided salvage, ventilation and other support functions. The fire was under control within ten minutes. The fire caused significant damage to the kitchen of the fire unit, and moderate smoke damage throughout that unit. No other units sustained damage, and the building remained habitable with the exception of the fire unit. Damage is initially estimated at \$10,000.

Crews from the Palatine, Long Grove and Arlington Heights Fire Departments responded to this fire under a mutual response agreement between the departments. A total of 21 firefighters and 5 command and administrative staff members were on the scene. There were three 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, spreading the fire. All were able to escape without assistance and had exited the building by the arrival of the Fire Department. 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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