



# **Palatine Fire Department**

## **Incident Press Release**

*For Immediate Release*

**December 13, 2007**

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### **526 E. Spruce Dr., Palatine Condominium Fire**

On Thursday, December 13, 2007 at 8:26 p.m. the Palatine Fire Department responded to a report of a fire in a multi-family dwelling at 526 E. Spruce Drive. The first units arrived on the scene in less than 4 minutes and found flames blowing out of the windows of a third floor unit. All 6 of the units in the building were reported to have been evacuated prior to the fire department's arrival, with the occupants alerted by neighbors or security personnel from the complex. The first-arriving fire crews stretched a 1¾" hoseline to the third floor unit and began an attack on the fire. Other crews conducted a search of the building for any additional occupants, forcing entry as necessary while others checked for fire extension, raised ladders, pulled an additional hoseline and provided emergency medical and rapid intervention operations. As additional crews arrived on the scene they were assigned to salvage operations in the condos below the fire unit, deploying tarps to protect belongings and releasing water from above the drywall ceilings. The fire was controlled within fifteen minutes of the Fire Department's arrival, and fire damage was confined to unit 3B, which sustained heavy fire, heat and smoke damage. There was water damage in two of the remaining units sufficient to render them untenable. No injuries to occupants or firefighters were reported. Ten occupants of three units were displaced by the fire; they are being assisted by the American Red Cross.

A total of 24 firefighters manning four engines, two ladder trucks, one rescue squad and two ambulances were on the scene, along with 4 command officers and two fire investigators. Mutual aid was provided by the Arlington Heights Fire Department and the Long Grove Fire District under automatic mutual aid agreements. Palatine Police officers on the scene assisted with evacuating an adjoining building, as well as crowd and traffic control. A damage estimate is not available at the time of this release. The fire remains under investigation by Palatine Fire Department investigators.

The Palatine Fire Departments reminds residents to have and practice a fire escape plan for their home. You should identify two ways out from each room. Make sure you have working smoke detectors and check your batteries monthly. Taking these simple steps ahead of time may save your or your family's life in a fire. If you have any questions, please call the Palatine Fire Department Public Education Division at (847) 202-6302.

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