



# PRESS RELEASE

Darien-Woodridge Fire District  
7550 Lyman Ave  
Darien, IL 60561



## Contact Information:

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Fire Prevention Director Robert Morris 630-910-2207

DATE: December 11, 2007

## *For Immediate Release*

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### One Killed, One Injured in Townhouse Fire

On December 9, 2007, at 3:39 PM, Darien-Woodridge Fire District units responded to the 7300 block of Winthrop Way, in unincorporated Downers Grove, for an activated fire alarm. Upon their arrival five minutes later, residents met them and pointed them to the effected unit where firefighters noticed two female victims standing in the hallway, with their clothing still smoking.

The two females, a mother and daughter aged 94 and 72, had burns to multiple parts of their body. Paramedics immediately began administering advanced life support care to both patients.

The mother, with life threatening injuries, was transported to the Loyola Hospital burn unit in Maywood. The daughter was transported to Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove. The Cook County Coroner advised that the mother died of her injuries on December 10. The daughter was released from the hospital on December 10.

The fire is still being investigated, but it is believed that the mother reached over the stove and caught her clothing on fire. The daughter sustained her burns trying to extinguish the clothing of her mother. No fire damage was sustained to the townhome. In addition to units from the Darien-Woodridge Fire District, assistance was received from the Tri-State Fire Protection District.

The last fire death in the Darien-Woodridge Fire District was in 1996 from a home explosion.

The Darien-Woodridge Fire District would like to remind everyone about the dangers of fire, especially around stoves and other open flames. There should be heightened awareness around this holiday season when many candles and other decorations are in place. When around open flames, it is always best to wear close fitting clothes that have a tight weave to them. Blue jeans is an example of a tightly woven garment. Short sleeves are better than long sleeves. If necessary, pull the long sleeves up and place a rubber band over them to keep the out of the way while working.

If you should sustain a burn injury, immediately run cool water over the burn. Cool water lessens the pain and can stop the burn from becoming worse. Do not place ointments or salves on the burn, save that for the medical professionals. If your clothes happen to catch fire, STOP what you are doing, DROP to the ground, and ROLL until the fire is out. Then call 9-1-1 for medical assistance.

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