



# PRESS RELEASE

## Darien-Woodridge Fire District

7550 Lyman Ave  
Darien, IL 60561



### **Contact Information:**

Acting Chief Wayne Messenger 630-910-2200  
Fire Prevention Director Robert Morris 630-910-2207

Date: January 4, 2008

### ***For Immediate Release***

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## Firefighters Find Townhouse Fire

On January 4, 2008, at approximately 9:30 AM, a fire engine driving down the street noticed a slight haze in the air and detected the smell of something burning. Investigating further, they drove through the Devonshire Townhome complex and noticed a chimney on fire at 7905 Knottingham, in Darien.

They immediately called for assistance, and then checked the unit for occupants. They found the unit owner at the table having coffee, completely unaware of the fire. He was quickly evacuated and firefighters then began to attack the fire. Due to the early detection of the fire, the fire damage was contained to the metal fireplace chimney and enclosure. The fire was under control in about 15 minutes. There was no damage to other units, and the owner was allowed to return to the unit.

Damage estimates are placed at \$10,000. No civilians or firefighters were injured. In addition to Darien-Woodridge personnel, Tri-State, Westmont, and Pleasantview fire departments provided assistance at the scene. The cause of the fire is believed to be a malfunctioning chimney.

The Darien-Woodridge Fire District would like to remind everyone of the need for regular chimney inspections. When a fireplace is used, deposits known as creosote build up within the chimney. Creosote is combustible, and can itself catch fire from a routine fire in the fireplace. This can cause a fire the length of the chimney. Any imperfections in the chimney can then allow the fire into the home. This can be especially dangerous, as most people would have no knowledge of a fire in their chimney. Contact a reliable chimney sweep company to inspect and clean your fireplace and chimney.

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