



# PRESS RELEASE

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



## Contact Information:

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## *For Immediate Release*

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### Ice Storm Damages Fire Vehicles and Injures Firefighters

Darien-Woodridge Fire District fire units responded to a reported vehicle accident in the area of I-355 and I-55 early in the morning of December 26. First arriving units entered the northbound I-355 ramp from southbound I-55. Due to the icy conditions on the ramp they began to slow down even more. At that point the vehicles began to slide sideways. One went into a snow bank, the other slid into a tow truck that also went off the road.

Noting no accident and the icy conditions on this ramp, another responding vehicle was directed to take another route. When the fire engine got to the top of that ramp, they too began to slide sideways into a truck parked on the side of the road. It was then struck by another vehicle that lost control due to the icy conditions

It was over two hours before fire vehicles were able to move from the two scenes. It took some time until a salt truck arrived. Fire personnel also assisted by spreading salt. A tow truck was needed to pull the fire engine away from the truck.

Because of the extreme conditions, everyone working ended up sliding on the roadway and ultimately falling down. It was reported that you would slide off the road by just standing on the road. One firefighter was treated and released from a hospital for minor back injuries.

An ambulance sustained minor damage, and one fire engine had moderate damage and was taken out of service, until it can be checked for proper operation. A reserve fire engine was put in its place.

Fire officials urge everyone to take extra care around snow and ice. SUVs and four-wheel drive vehicles do not give you better control on ice. Slow down when there is any chance for ice. It is better to arrive a little late, than not to arrive at all.

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