



DARIEN-WOODRIDGE

Fire Protection District

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 11, 2013 / House Fire: Family dog alerts homeowner before smoke detectors.

On October 11th 2013, at 0410 hours, the Darien-Woodridge Fire District responded to a home on the 1200 block of Richfield Court in Woodridge following a 9-1-1 report of a house on fire. The first fire units arrived within four minutes of the dispatch and found the homeowner outside attempting to control a fire on the exterior of the home with a garden hose.

After confirming with the homeowner that all of the homes occupants were accounted for outside, fire crews completed extinguishment and performed extensive overhaul, searching for hidden fire, to portions of a front room and exterior bay window area. Primary and secondary searches of the home were completed simultaneously to ensure that no one was left inside. The house remains habitable with initial damage estimates at \$30,000 and the cause remains under investigation and focused on an area near a 12 volt landscape light transformer.

There were no casualties to either civilians or firefighters and the Fire District turned the scene back over to the homeowner within 90 minutes.

The home had working smoke detectors and a monitored fire alarm but they did not activate until after the fire crews were on scene for about 5 minutes because the fire was on the exterior of the house and not enough smoke had entered it to trigger the detection devices. The homeowner reported to the Fire District that the family dog entered their bedroom barking, alerting them to the fire.

Darien-Woodridge received automatic aid at the scene from Lisle-Woodridge, Downers Grove and Pleasantview Fire Departments while Westmont, Lemont and LaGrange Park provided station coverage during the incident.

The Darien-Woodridge Fire District wants to remind everyone, especially during this Fire Prevention Week, of the importance of having working smoke detectors along and a family escape plan with a designated meeting place outside the residence. It's also important to maintain up-to-date records and copies of valuable papers in a safe, off-site location.

END OF RELEASE