



DARIEN-WOODRIDGE

Fire Protection District

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 21, 2013 / Lightning Strike and Fire

On May 20, 2013 at 10:26 p.m., a 911 call was received reporting a lightning strike during significant storm activity at 1312 Darien Path Way, Darien. The first fire units arrived on the scene in less than three minutes and initial reports from the Darien-Woodridge companies working on the scene were that smoke was coming from the eaves from one of the four units, in a four unit townhome occupancy.

Initial efforts were to complete primary search, advance hoselines, and to ventilate the structure. The roof was opened up and extensive interior overhaul was completed to search for any remaining fire. In addition to the primary unit, minor damage was done to an adjoining unit. Fire units remained on the scene for more than two hours.

No civilians or firefighters were injured as a result of the incident, and damage was confined to two of the four units. Residents from both occupancies were not allowed to remain in the building that night. The townhome that was struck by lightning will be uninhabitable for a significant amount of time. Initial damage estimates are placed at \$130,000.

Darien-Woodridge Fire District was assisted at the scene by Argonne, Hinsdale, Pleasantview, Tri-State, and Westmont fire departments.

Approximately seven hours later, a light amount of smoke was noticed coming from the damaged unit. Fire crews did additional overhaul and extinguishment to ensure that no more hidden fire was present. Crews were on the scene for less than one hour.

The Darien-Woodridge Fire District wants to remind everyone of the importance of having a home escape plan, and making sure all family members are aware of it. It is also prudent to have copies of all of your valuable papers in a safe off-site location. One never knows when fire may strike - Fire is Everyone's Fight.
