



# DARIEN-WOODRIDGE

Fire Protection District

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Contact Information:**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 2, 2020

At 03:11 a.m. on October 2, 2020, the Darien-Woodridge Fire Protection District was dispatched to 7803 Woodward Avenue, in the Village of Woodridge, for a report of a structure fire. The first unit on the scene arrived at reporting heavy smoke from a three-story, 12 unit multi-family occupancy. Upon the arrival of the Incident Commander, a M.A.B.A.S. (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) Box alarm was requested bringing seven neighboring communities to the scene with additional resources. At that time, the roof of the structure began to collapse.

Due to the volume of fire and knowledge of the building construction, Command ordered all crews operating on the interior of the structure to evacuate and initiate a strictly defensive fire attack from the exterior of the building.

There were very heavy fire conditions in the rear of the building where there are wood balconies. Evacuation of the building was completed by both Darien-Woodridge Fire Companies and The Village of Woodridge Police Department. The fire progressed through the attic of 7803 Woodward and then into the adjoining building at 7801 Woodward, the roof then collapsed into the second floor of both 7801 and 7803 Woodward.

No firefighters or civilians were injured during the incident and damage is currently being estimated around \$1,500,000. 12 apartments were deemed uninhabitable and 26 residents were displaced. The Village of Woodridge Community Development Department declared that the buildings were unsafe and the buildings were secured and posted.

The DuPage County Fire Investigation Task Force is in the process of investigating and determining the cause of the fire.

Darien-Woodridge received assistance for incident from: Lisle-Woodridge, Downers Grove, Westmont, Bolingbrook, Lemont, Tri-State, Westmont and from the Village of Woodridge Police Department.

The Darien-Woodridge Fire Protection District wants to remind everyone of the importance of fire safety and the proper installation and maintenance of smoke alarms. Additionally, families need to have a pre-determined fire escape plan with a meeting place outside and remember to never re-enter a building that is on fire once you are out.



\*\*\*END OF RELEASE\*\*\*