



DARIEN-WOODRIDGE

Fire Protection District

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1st, 2014

At 11:14 a.m. on May 1st, 2014, the Darien-Woodridge Fire Protection District was dispatched to 7723 Woodward Avenue, in the Village of Woodridge, for a report of a structure fire. While units were en route, the dispatch center advised of multiple calls and persons possibly trapped. The first unit on the scene arrived at 11:18 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 eight 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. Six minutes after the Box Alarm was requested, the alarm level was increased to a 2-11 bringing in additional resources.

There was very heavy fire conditions in the rear of the building where there are wood balconies and the fire had already extended into the common attic that did not have any fire walls. Wind conditions at the time were 12-15 miles per hour and coming from the west and significantly contributed to rapid fire growth and pushing the fire through the attic and multiple apartments.

The fire was declared under control at 1:01 p.m., however units remained on the scene performing overhaul and addressing hot spots using tower ladders and large attack lines.

No firefighters or civilians were injured during the incident and damage is currently being estimated around \$1,500,000.

The M.A.B.A.S Division 10 Origin & Cause Team is focusing on the possible use of a propane grill on a second floor balcony as the cause.

Darien-Woodridge received assistance for incident from: Lisle-Woodridge, Downers Grove, Westmont, Bolingbrook, Lemont, Tri-State, Pleasantview, Hinsdale, LaGrange, LaGrange Park, Romeoville, Clarendon Hills, Forestview, Lombard, Naperville and Argonne National Laboratory.

The Darien-Woodridge Fire Protection District wants to remind everyone of the importance of fire safety when using cooking appliances and making sure there is a fire extinguisher located in a manner that it can be easily accessible should there be a fire in that appliance. 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's on fire once you're out.

END OF RELEASE