

Roselle Police & Fire Departments Investigate Fire

May 27, 2014 – On May 26, 2014, at approximately 4:32 am, the Roselle Fire and Police Departments responded to a report of a fire at 1190 Darby Ln.

Upon crews' arrival, they found a house fully engulfed in fire. The intense heat and fire also caused exposure problems for two neighboring homes. An aggressive fire attack was initiated on the fire building and the two neighboring homes.

The fire was under control in about an hour. Fire damage to the original fire building was extensive. One neighboring home sustained moderate damage, and the other suffered some exterior damage. No damage estimates are available at this time, and no one was injured in this fire. The main fire building was vacant at the time of the fire.

The Roselle Fire and Police Departments, in conjunction with the DuPage County Fire Investigation Task Force, are investigating this fire, in order to determine its cause and origin. If you have any information that you think may or may not be helpful, or hear any rumors regarding this fire, please do not hesitate to contact Roselle Fire Department Chief David Schultz at dschultz@roselle.il.us or (630) 671-2844, Roselle Police Department Chief Steve Herron at sherron@roselle.il.us or (630) 671-4005, or Roselle Police Department Detective Sergeant Shawn Kooistra at skooistra@roselle.il.us or (630) 671-4085.

Fire can happen to anyone, and at any time. Should a fire occur in your home, knowing the following items can make the difference in surviving the fire or not.

- Have working smoke detectors on each level of your home, and change the batteries twice a year.
- When you change your clock, change your battery.
- Have a home escape plan that the entire family knows. This includes having two ways out of each room in the house or apartment, and then going to a pre-determined meeting place to account for all of the occupants.
- Always sleep with bedroom doors closed. A closed door, such as one in the bedroom, can keep fire back for 10 - 15 minutes. This can eliminate the need to exit from a bedroom window, unless conditions in the room make staying there dangerous. A solid core door, such as between the garage and the house, can hold fire back for about one hour.
- Have a multi-purpose (ABC type) fire extinguisher, and know how to use it.
- When using any heat-producing device such as a stove, grill, or fireplace, never leave it unattended. Something unexpected can always happen. Always make sure that ashes are cold before throwing them out.
- If you allow smoking in your house, have many deep ashtrays available. Before going to bed, check the chair and sofa cushions for any ashes that might have fallen and may still be burning. Run water over any ashes before throwing them out.
- When using candles, never leave them unattended, and make sure that they are stored in such a manner so as to reduce the likelihood of them tipping over.
- Consider a video surveillance system. If something does happen, these systems could capture the offender on video, and assist police in solving the crime.
- Keep exterior lights in working order and lit during the evening hours. Lights with motion sensors are a great way to keep the perimeter of your home well lit.

- Make sure your yard is tended to and kept neat, even when out of town. Don't leave yard refuse or yard waste bags on the outside of the home; keep them in the garage or in a locked shed. Do not store firewood along the structure of the home. Keep it inside a locked shed or inside the garage.
- Be a good neighbor. Get to know your neighbors on either side and across the street from your home. Good neighbors will watch out for your home and can report suspicious activity to the police.
- If you see anything suspicious in your neighborhood, you can call 911 and alert police.
- If completing any home renovation projects and a commercial dumpster will be necessary, make sure the dumpster is not placed too close to the home, and try to have the debris placed so as not to be easily visible over the top of the dumpster, if at all possible.
- Park your vehicles in the garage if at all possible.

Accidents do happen. Have an inventory of all of your possessions, room by room, (including photographs) listing the date purchased and cost. This will be vital for any insurance settlement. If you are a renter, consider getting renter's insurance. It is a small investment for the many possessions that you have acquired.

If you would like the Roselle Fire Department to do a free home safety survey to locate potential problems, assist you in developing an escape plan, or in locating correct smoke detector or carbon monoxide detector locations, call us at (630) 671-2842.

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