



For Immediate Release

February 16, 2016

Contact: Fire Chief, Kevin Welsh Sr.

Fire erupts in multi-unit residential complex at 800 E. 191st Place, Glenwood, Illinois

The Glenwood Fire Department received a call at 1109 hours Saturday, February 13, 2016 for a fire in a multi-unit residential complex at 800 E. 191st Pl. Dispatch received multiple calls reporting the fire in a short period of time. First arriving units reported flames and smoke showing from the soffit and roof area on the southwest corner of the building near the patio glass doors as well as the bedroom windows on the west side of the second floor unit in that corner of the building. Smoke was also presenting along the entire mansard line at the roof running the entire south face of the building they immediately requested an upgrade to a Full Still Alarm.

Initial crews forced entry into the building and upon entering the 2nd Floor SW corner unit encountered only moderate smoke in the unit. Initial search of this unit found no occupants. The only fire they saw from the interior at this point was presenting exteriorly on the balcony. The ceilings in the unit were pulled down and the crew was faced with heavy fire conditions running the attic space above the ceilings.

As this effort was continuing the Incident Commander upgraded the alarm response while the arriving crews from the Still Alarm began evacuation of the remainder of the units, assisted by the PD. A primary search was conducted to assure evacuation.

Incoming units were rapidly deployed to assist with the evacuation and search while the effort continued to extinguish the fire. Multiple hand lines were deployed into the building with crews to effect an attack. Conditions rapidly deteriorated and the interior crews were forced back to safe positions within the building until such time as we changed to a defensive attack. Several attempts were made to re-enter the building for interior fire fight, but as we established our positions the fire conditions would deteriorate once again and force a tactical change.

Rapid spread of the fire in the void spaces of the roof structure along with the Mansard style overhang design, void of fire stopping along with the sub-zero temperatures and wind chills created a very challenging fire ground operation. Warming busses were brought in for both the Firefighters as well as the displaced residents. We opened a warming center for the residents at our Center Street

Community Center where the Red Cross was set up to assist the residents and they were fed and warmed.

The Glenwood FD was assisted in this effort by the Fire Departments of Homewood, South Holland, Lansing, Munster, Harvey, East Hazel Crest, Flossmoor, Chicago Heights, Tinley Park, Country Club Hills, Thornton, Lynwood, Crete and Oak Forest. The Glenwood Police Department as well as the Glenwood Public Works Department were instrumental in bringing this disaster to a close.

The investigation into the cause of the fire is ongoing. This investigation is being headed up by the MABAS Division 24 Fire Investigation Team.

The Glenwood Fire Department will work closely with the residents as well as building owners to facilitate their immediate needs as well as reconstruction of the building.

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