



COUNTRYSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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News Release

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STRUCTURE FIRE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – The Countryside Fire Protection District responded to a structure fire at approximately 3pm in the 900 block of Commonwealth Court, Vernon Hills. Upon arrival, crews saw smoke coming from the second floor of a two story multi-family apartment complex. Occupants were also in the process of evacuating. Crews entered the common hallway and advance a hose line into an apartment that had heavy smoke with active fire which spread in a common chase to the attic. The fire was under control in less than 10 minutes. The fire was contained to apartment and attic area. Fire Departments that responded to the scene in addition to Countryside were Mundelein, Libertyville and Lincolnshire/Riverwoods. There was an injury to a Vernon Hills Police officer which was transported with non life threatening injury. Firefighters were able to quickly extinguish the flames that consumed a large section of the attic and prevent spread to adjoining units. Occupants were able to return to their apartments in the adjoining complex. The fire building was uninhabitable. The fire displaced approximately 6 families which were being taken care of by Red Cross. Damage estimates are approximately eighty thousand dollars for structure and contents at this time. The potential loss could have exceeded over 2 million dollars. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

PUBLIC SAFETY MESSAGE – Be sure to have working smoke alarms on all levels in your home, in all sleeping areas and in the hallway outside of sleeping areas. Check the batteries in your smoke alarms each spring and fall with the time change. “Change your clock ...Change your batteries.”

