



Fire Department

Peter S. Polarek

Fire Chief

Press Release

06/13/2021

**Contact: Fire Chief Peter Polarek
815-895-4514**

Incident: On Saturday, June 12, 2021 at approximately 1736 hours, the Sycamore Fire Department was dispatched to 5982 W Clare Rd for a report of a structure fire. Prior to arrival on scene, a large header of black smoke could be seen for several miles. Upon arrival, responding fire companies found heavy fire on the rear (south) and west sides of the two story, single family residential structure extending into the roof attic space. A nearby 500-gallon propane tank was exposed to the heat from the fire. First arriving fire companies began an exterior attack with 2 ½" hand lines on the fire on the rear and side of the structure along with the cooling of the propane tank. All occupants had exited the structure prior to Fire Department arrival. This area of the county is without fire hydrants, so a water tender shuttle was set up to provide water for fire suppression.

The lack of water for fire suppression, the heat and humidity, limited manpower, overhead power lines, and access to the attic space made the extinguishment of this fire very challenging. The fire incident command upgraded this incident to a Box level alarm due to the need for additional manpower and additional water tenders for water supply. Once the main body of the fire was extinguished, crews were able to gain access to the interior of the structure and complete fire extinguishment. However, fire companies remained on scene for an additional hour and a half performing overhaul and checking for fire extension.

No injuries to residents or firefighters were reported. About one third of the L shaped structure (to the rear) is structurally unstable, the entire 2nd floor level was heavily damaged from heat, smoke, and water damage. The first floor was also heavily damaged from heat, smoke, and water. The basement level was damaged primarily from water run-off. The loss from the fire is estimated at approximately \$100,000.00. The building is not habitable and all residents were relocated.

The following agencies assisted with the fire operation: DeKalb, Cortland, Genoa Kingston, Hampshire, and Burlington, Elburn, Batavia, Kirkland, Maple Park, Waterman, Malta, Marengo, Creston, Huntley, Monroe Center, Rutland Dundee, St. Charles, Rochelle, N. Aurora, Somonauk, Sugar Grove, along with DeKalb County Sheriffs Department, and ComEd.